



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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 12TH MAY 2014 at 7.30pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Pendleton and Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor David Jukes (left the meeting at 8.45pm) and Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Mr Barrington-Johnson

14/104 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: RESOLVED to elect Cllr Mrs Jeffreys as Chairman of the Parish Council. She signed the declaration of office which was counter-signed by the proper officer.

14/105 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: RESOLVED to elect Cllr Milner as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. He signed the declaration of office which was counter-signed by the proper officer.

14/106 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Woodward (prior engagement)

14/107 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: There were none.

14/108 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Mrs Hull declared that she had been spoken to about highways issues; Cllr Mrs Horne declared she had been spoken to about Speldhurst Recreation Ground playground and Cllr Langridge declared he had been spoken to about the Treetops Planning Appeal.

14/109 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **7th April 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/110 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR: Mr Barrington-Johnson was requested to leave the room while the recommendation of the panel was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Neil Barrington-Johnson as a Parish Councillor and he re-joined the meeting. He signed the declaration of office which was countersigned by the proper officer.

14/111 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor David Jukes reported that he now has a programme for the demolition of the old cinema site. He also reported that he attended a Kent Leaders' meeting regarding the proposal for a second runway at Gatwick which the majority favoured. He, along with

three other members, had voted against the Gatwick proposal and recommended the plan for an airport in the Thames estuary.

14/112 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no members of the public present.

14/113 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES INCLUDING KALC REPRESENTATIVE: see list attached

14/114 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN: Cllr Pendleton reported that the Governance Committee had studied the Annual Return and found everything to be in order. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk sign pages 2 & 3 of the Annual Return and it be sent to the external auditor.

14/115 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- i) A Committee meeting was held on 24th April and the minutes have been circulated.
- ii) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following budget virements; £1,080 from Contingency to Langton Green maintenance for the increase in the Groundsman's hours, which was approved after the budget was set and £1,000 from Langton Green Play Area to Langton Green Maintenance as the Groundsman now carries out all the playground inspections and this is paid for out of Langton Green Maintenance.
- iii) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and grant £4,000 to St Mary's Church, Speldhurst towards vegetation clearance and new fencing.
- iv) After considerable discussion and a vote of 11:1 in favour it was **RESOLVED** in principle to agree to the Speldhurst Recreation Ground's request that the grant already pledged be used for a variation to the design of the new playground. **The Clerk will ask the Chairman of the committee to attend the next Full Council meeting to explain the revised proposal in more detail.**
- v) It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £440 to the TWBC Fun Days to be held at Langton Green and Speldhurst Recreation Grounds in the summer holidays. **The Clerk was asked to advise the organisers of the SE Water works which may affect attendance.**

14/116 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in April</u>			
Land Registry	138	42.00	Land search costs
Haymarket Media Group	DD	101.00	Planning magazine
EON	DD	24.61	Street lighting
Langton Life	MT308	250.00	SPC page
Sainsbury's	A028	13.59	Petrol
Post Office	A029	19.92	Stamps
Sainsbury's	A030	3.40	Refreshments for APA

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

BT PLC	DD	18.00	Mobile
Event Insurance Services	139	354.00	Grant - Speldhurst pram race insurance
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	140	100.00	APA board hire
Prestige Web Marketing	MT309	60.00	Website maintenance
Speldhurst Village Fund	142	382.00	Grant - Fete insurance
Premiere Digital	MT310	96.00	Office sign
Premiere Digital	MT311	180.00	APA boards
The PCC of All Saints' Church, LG	143	800.00	Grant - Churchyard maintenance
KALC	MT312	72.00	Clerks' Conference

St Martin's Church, Ashurst	MT313	400.00	Grant - Broadsheet grant
Victim Support	144	250.00	Grant
Viking Direct	MT314	77.94	Stationery
Viking Direct	MT315	57.56	APA Stationery
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT316	18.00	Meeting room hire
Donaldson West	MT317	2,676.00	Legal fees LGRG pavilion
Mr L Cooper	MT318	340.00	Groundsman
Miss K Lawrence	MT319	15.00	Cleaner
Kent Men of the Trees	145	10.00	Village tree competition
Alison Hillman	MT326	136.50	Internal audit fees
M R Lawrence	MT327	220.00	Mowing & strimming
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT328	36.46	Maintenance supplies
RIP Cleaning Services	MT329	172.80	Canine refuse
Langton Green Rural Society	MT330	400.00	Grant - fete insurance
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	55.00	Non-domestic rates
C May	MT320	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT321	41.54	Expenses
M Flemington	MT322	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT323	29.35	Expenses
HMRC	MT324	725.60	Tax & NI
Streetlights	MT325	23.65	Street light maintenance
UK Debt Management Office	DD	3,244.59	PWLB repayments
Total payments		£13,069.16	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

14/117 HIGHWAYS:

- a) Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that TWBC is promoting 20mph speed limits outside schools, there have been several accidents in the parish recently and that Speldhurst Road, Langton Green will be closed during the school summer holiday for South East Water works.
- b) The consultation period for the proposal for double yellow lines outside the butcher's shop on Langton Road has now closed. Borough Councillor David Jukes suggested that consideration is given to a counter-proposal by the Highways Committee.

14/118 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID: The Clerk reported that the nomination of the land adjoining Treetops, Stonewall Park Road is being considered by TWBC. Cllr Langridge reported that an ecological survey was not carried out as the owner would not permit access.

14/119 LANGTON GREEN SPORTS CLUB: The Langton Green Sports Club had requested that some of the expenditure KCC will be making on the car park improvements be transferred to the pavilion project. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** not to accede to this request.

14/120 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission to The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company to use the Recreation Ground on Wednesday 25th June for their outdoor theatre.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission to Langton Green Cricket Club to display two signs; one by the gate from the car park onto the recreation ground and one on the pavilion, advertising for new members.

14/122 SPELDHURST SCOUTS: A suitable project for the Scouts to commemorate Community Day on 6th June was discussed and it was agreed that tidying fallen timber in Shadwell Woods would be a good idea. **Cllr Milner and Cllr Mrs Horne will liaise with the Scouts.**

14/123 TO RESPOND TO A LETTER FROM MR GREENSLADE REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S POSITION ON GATWICK EXPANSION: Cllr Mrs Soyke had drafted a reply which had been circulated to all Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that she should send this to Mr Greenslade on behalf of the Council.

14/124 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there was a good attendance at the Annual Parish Assembly and thanked all those who had been involved with the organisation. A small working group would now be formed to prepare for next year's event.

14/125 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) **Governance** – Cllr Pendleton reported that a Committee meeting was held on 30th April and that the minutes have been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the annual review of the Internal Financial Control System and an amendment to the Grant Awarding Guidelines.
- ii) **Planning** – Cllr Langridge reported that there had been two Committee meetings since the last Full Council meeting which were held on 8th April and 8th May and that both minutes have been circulated. He reported that there is a hearing at TWBC on 20th May in connection with the planning appeal on land in the quarry adjacent to Treetops, Stonewall Park Road, Langton Green. The next Committee meeting will be held on 9th June.
- iii) **Amenities** – Cllr Milner reported that the next Committee meeting is on 19th May.
- iv) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Mrs Soyke said there had been no meeting since the last Full Council and referred to her report.
- v) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that he is seeking confirmation from KCC PROW as to when they will replace the bridge in Shadwell Woods. Cllr Milner and Cllr Langridge have compiled a list of footpaths in Langton Green to be cut and cleared by the Groundsman and funded by the grant given by the Langton Green Rural Society. South East Water has carried out works in Pocket Park and it has not been reinstated satisfactorily. Cllr Milner has been asked by residents if Roopers can be mowed because it is overgrown.
- vi) **Broadband** – There was nothing to report.
- vii) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.
- viii) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that James Bowdidge is now Chairman of the working group and that they still need more volunteers to join. He was concerned that the working group was losing momentum.
- ix) **Environment Working Group** – There was nothing to report.
- x) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that he is speaking to Langton Green Brownies next week about the First World War.

14/126 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7TH APRIL 2014: Details from TWBC regarding home-based businesses and rural cyclists will be sent to all village magazines.

14/127 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. ACRK Rural News Issue 136
2. Came & Company Parish Matters Spring 2014
3. Hospice in the Weald News Spring 2014 including Events April – July 2014 and Open Gardens 2014
4. Email dated 2nd April from TWBC with details of the flood support scheme for businesses and residents
5. Email dated 25th April from Speldhurst Village Hall advising of an increase in hall hire rates of 6% from 1st September 2014
6. Email dated 28th April with details of the Partnership in Action project funded by the Big Lottery and led by Tunbridge Wells & District Citizens Advice Bureaux
7. Circular from TreeCycle Tree Care offering tree safety audits and tree surgery work
8. Letter from Streetlights advising a 4% increase in charges
9. Email from TWBC advising that Paul Cummins the Monitoring Officer is leaving
10. April Newsletter from Ann Barnes
11. Letter from Mr Davidson regarding trees in Langholm Road

12. Health & Safety Newsletter

13. Report from Langton Green School on their trip to Marchiennes (re grant)

14/128 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. Tuesday 13th May – Langton Green Rural Society AGM – 7.30 for 8pm - LGVH
2. Sunday 18th May – Speldhurst Pram Race
3. Monday 19th May – Amenities meeting – Office
4. Saturday 31st May & Sunday 1st June – Football Fiesta – LGRG
5. Monday 2nd June – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

14/129 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Langridge reported that the recent charity bake-off in LGVH was a great success with over 100 people attending and £2,500 was raised for charity.

Cllr Mrs Soyke asked if the Air Traffic Committee Terms of Reference could be put on the website.

The Clerk recommended the Rude Mechanical Outdoor Theatre production.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys wished Cllr Mrs Soyke all the best for the elections on 22nd May.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.07pm

Chairman

COMMITTEES 2014-15

Finance Committee

Crispin Owen (Chairman)
Rupert Milner (Vice Chairman)
Joy Podbury
Julia Soyke
Chris Pendleton
Trevor Parker
Joanna Horne

Amenities¹

Rupert Milner
Trevor Parker
Crispin Owen
Rosemary Hull
David Turner
Substitute: Chris Woodward

Governance¹

Chris Pendleton
Trevor Parker
Lynn Jeffreys
Crispin Owen
Rupert Milner

Environment WG

Rosemary Hull (Chairman)
Joy Podbury
Plus 2 members of public

Parish Plan WG

James Bowdidge MoP (Chairman)
David Turner
Joy Podbury
Ed Langridge

APA WG¹

CLlr Mrs Soyke
CLlr Milner
CLlr Parker

Security

CLlr Langridge

Planning Committee

Ed Langridge (Chairman)
Rosemary Hull (Vice-Chairman)
Joanna Horne
Joy Podbury
Julia Soyke
David Turner
Neil Barrington-Johnson

Highways¹

Trevor Parker
Ed Langridge
Joanna Horne
Neil Barrington-Johnson
plus 3 members of public

Air Traffic

Julia Soyke (Chairman)
Joy Podbury
Rosemary Hull
Neil Barrington-Johnson

BroadBand WG

Chris Woodward (Chairman)
Julia Soyke
plus 5 members of public

KALC Representatives

Rosemary Hull
Lynn Jeffreys

First World War WG

Ed Langridge (Chairman)
Jo Horne
Rupert Milner

¹ New Chairman required

Note that The Chairman and Vice Chairman are ex-officio members of **all** committees and can attend any meeting in a voting capacity