



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

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 2nd AUGUST 2010 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Hull, Mrs Waters, Brown, Ellis, Langridge, Milner, Parker, and Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chris May, Clerk; Mrs M Flemington, Assistant Clerk

There were no members of the public present

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mrs Paulson-Ellis (recovering from operation), Cllr Pendleton (holiday)

10/106 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

Personal & Prejudicial – The clerk - approval of his overtime (10/110iii)

10/107 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: No declarations were received

10/108 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **5th July 2010**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.

10/109 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – There were no members of the public present.

10/110 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Parker

- i) Cllr Parker referred to the minutes of the Finance meeting held on 19th July. He gave a précis of the main points that were discussed including a discussion on a previous email decision and guidance for the future. He advised the Council that £15,000 had been transferred to the contingency account following the decision by the Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust not to proceed with the work on the land outside the hall. He confirmed that the committee had authorised a new financial bookkeeping system up to a cost of £1,000 which would eventually make savings because it would reduce the clerk's time spent on bookkeeping.
- ii) He advised that £3,000 had been transferred from the contingency account to an earmarked reserve in case a by-election was requested (the elections next year would be budgeted separately).
- iii) The clerk left the room. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk's overtime was approved. The clerk rejoined the meeting.
- iv) The clerk confirmed he had changed the electricity provider from EDF to EON.

10/111 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – July 2010 – Invoices verified by Cllr Wheeler

BT Payment Services Ltd	£97.06	Telephone bill	876
Joyce & Partners	£6,139.38	Planning Application	877

El Parido	£35.25	AGM Display	878
El Parido	£205.62	50 advertising discs	879
BT PLC	£30.14	Mobile	880
Cory Environmental	£971.14	LGRG bins/sweeping	881
Joyce & Partners	£502.50	Planning Application	882
EDF Energy	£116.91	LG SP Pav	883
KCC (KCS)	£584.57	Groombridge maintenance	884
KCC (KCS)	£1,238.20	LGRG maintenance	885
LGCT	£24.00	Hall Hire	886
Lantec Systems	£35.25	Computer maintenance	887
Ashurst McD Hall Trust	£107.00	Hall Hire	888
C Worcester	£62.00	LG SP Pav	889
M R Lawrence	£80.00	LGRG maintenance	890
M R Lawrence	£180.00	Roopers maintenance	891
RIP Cleaning Services	£105.75	Dog Bins	892
KALC	£70.50	Training course	893
Open Spaces	£40.00	Annual subscription	894
Ryman	£44.28	Stationery	895
Craigdene Ltd	£164.50	Playground Inspection	896
HMRC	£626.01	Employers NI; Employee's NI & tax	897
Mrs M Flemington	£386.50	Salary	898
Mrs M Flemington	£69.80	Expenses	899
Mr C May	£1,216.91	Salary	900
Mr C May	£291.52	Expenses	901

Total £13,424.79

10/112 HIGHWAYS REPORT

- i) The clerk had met Kent Highways to discuss the proposed new grass islands outside the Old Watson Hall to ensure that they were involved in the project because of the possible traffic consequences. He was awaiting a reply from them and has chased up the matter.

- ii) The three main issues; the double yellow lines in Speldhurst, the ISSs in Ashurst and Groombridge are progressing. The double yellow lines proposal is with the TRO team, a new position has been agreed for the Ashurst ISS and Jacobs have suggested a site for the ISS at Groombridge.

The clerk would continue to monitor and chase the above and other issues with KHS.

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that two new “Give Way” signs had been installed and that she had seen small blue signs in Southborough noting that the roads to Speldhurst were unsuitable for HGVs and that these should be encouraged on some roads in the Parish.

10/008 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

- i) The new format had been put on a trial website for comments by Councillors and very few had responded, nevertheless the working party was not happy with the first “draft” and there would need to be some changes to the layout and content. While Cllr Pendleton is on holiday Cllr Langridge and the clerk have met and agreed to changes that are needed and **these will be outlined for Cllr Pendleton for his perusal on his return and then to relay them to the web designer.**
- ii) There were also some further costs that Council needed to consider which was how the website was to be updated in the future when it goes “live” – according to Cllr Pendleton the web designer will update the website for £10pm or he will train the two clerks for a cost of £250 and then we can control our updates. No decision was taken and it would be re-considered when the website was up and working.

2249 PARISH OFFICE – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had been in contact with Trevor Palmer and he had advised that the LGCT was in the process of obtaining the third quote for the total build. They had also agreed that when the build started there would need to be some decisions made on a “quicker” basis than at the monthly Full Council. She proposed that she, Cllr Mrs Soyke and the clerk form a working party to approve cosmetic details and any significant expenditure would be referred to Full Council. This was **AGREED**.

Cllr Mrs Podbury had also met Trevor Palmer and had noted that there would be superficial costs that needed to be considered such as burglar/fire alarms/ CCTV/ heating/ whether we have a separate electricity meter and cleaning.

10/097 GROOMBRIDGE NOTICE BOARD – The board was on order and should be delivered and put up this month.

10/113 ACRK – Response to Rural Road Speed Limit Reduction Motion – A letter had been circulated to Councillors requesting that the Council support the reduction of the speed limit on “C” class roads from 60mph to 50mph. It was discussed and **AGREED** that the clerk was to write supporting the motion. **Cllr Brown was to enquire whether a member from the Council was required to attend the meetings.**

10/098 TWBC LDF Consultation Document – A meeting had been held today at the Town Hall and a number of Councillors and the clerk had attended, along with Borough Councillors to discuss why Langton Green was in part in the Tunbridge Wells section and in part in the Villages and Rural Areas section in the consultation document, and to get an understanding of the strength of feeling regarding the problem with LNH in Langton Green. The TWBC Officers were Louise Phillips, Planning Policy Manager and Deborah Dixon. After much discussion and debate it was acknowledged by the officers that Langton Green was recognised as a village and that there had been a mistake to include parts of it in both documents. They would have a meeting with senior officers to discuss the implications of what was said regarding Local Needs Housing and the importance of the Parish Boundary over the LBD and they would reply later in the month. **Meanwhile Cllr Mrs Jeffreys would formulate a reply to the consultation document (the consultation period has been extended to 30th August) on behalf of the Council using the work done by Councillors and other comments. The replies would be circulated before being sent.**

10/114 OPEN MEETING OCTOBER – The meeting date had been set for Monday 11th October at the Langton Green main hall at 7.30pm and all Councillors would attend. It was **AGREED** that an article should be ready by 10th September for publication in the October village magazines and a newsletter be ready for circulation after the meeting (and after the Parish Vision results had been published and distributed). **A small working party of Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, Parker and Langridge would compile the first edition for Council approval.**

10/115 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys gave a brief account of the NALC course she had attended, and although the attendees had mainly been from urban areas (there was not much in common) she said it was beneficial and had given a good insight in to future issues. The Power of General Competence was going through Parliament and was likely to be replacing the PWB and for the Council to move towards Quality status we had to be prepared to distribute more information to residents. There was also a warning that County and Borough/District Councils would not be able to support certain services and that Parish Councils may be required to fill the gap.

10/116 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i) Governance Committee – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had been no meeting and the committee would be meeting in the autumn to produce a financial risk assessment document as requested by the Audit Commission.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Mrs Podbury referred Members to the Minutes and added that progress was being made on updating the TWBC planning website; the Appeals comments were now on the planning portal website; 106 monies had been requested towards refurbishing the play area should the Bradleys development be approved; Langton Green Primary School was having a full class increase and clarification was requested (**clerk to write**); it was requested that a letter be written to the Grammar schools for clarification on whether Speldhurst Parish was in the catchment area (**clerk to write**); and Cllr Mrs Hull had attended a TWBC planning meeting on 27th July.
- iii) Parish Vision – Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to the letter from chief executive of ACRK; there was to be no cost for the analysis and he had offered up to £1,250 towards further analysis which had been done by Councillors. **He was to be asked if the funds could be used towards printing costs (Cllr Mrs Jeffreys would compose a letter)**. A meeting had been set up for 17th August with Estelle Hudson of TWBC to discuss further mutual progress on the Parish Vision projects **and the clerk was asked to set another meeting up with John Davies of KCC**. The loss of the questionnaires was discussed and it was **AGREED** that the Parish Vision committee would consider how best to present this information to the public at the meeting organised for Thursday 5th August.
- iv) Recreation Ground – Cllr Ellis said that two wasps' nests had been discovered on the LGRG and these had been disposed of. The branch of a tree that had been snapped at the root was now completely down and required cutting – **clerk to organise**. The clerk referred to an incident where a stone had been kicked up by a mower and had hit a windscreen of a car and a resident had written concerned that it could have hit a child. The clerk had organised with KCC that the mowing would be started at 8am around the car park and nursery area before children were there.
- v) Footpaths – Cllr Milner referred to his report and the work to prepare the site for the container would be done shortly. He also referred to the work that had been done by the volunteers in Shadwell Woods and thanked everyone involved, especially Derek Robinson. The clerk had written to the landowner regarding the overgrown hedge.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Brown said there was a KALC meeting on September 9th.
- vii) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Wheeler said that there had not been a meeting this month but an email had been received from ERHA regarding site 15 and they are to commission a topographical survey and when this has been done a meeting will take place.
- viii) Environment – A meeting is scheduled for 8th September.

10/117 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5th July 2010 - Cllr Milner updated the Council on Marchiennes after he had met with some of their representatives. It was **AGREED** that we should continue as a facilitator.

Cllr Brown has submitted himself for a position on the Standards Committee and they are considering his application.

10/118 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i) Letter Ravensbrock Groundworks Ltd dated 14th July – local company specialising in all aspects of groundwork such as demolition, foundation, drainage etc
- ii) Email addressed to the Chairman – from ex TWBC Officer who has started his New Pest Control Business – Rod Stedman. His details have been recorded.
- iii) Letter/Newsletter from BCTV (formerly British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) – they train Tree Wardens. (They also help Parish Council's fulfil its obligation as detailed in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006). (Given to Cllr Milner)
- iv) Email from Mayor re Charity Clay Shoot at Paddock Wood on Wednesday 29th September
- v) Kent Fire & Rescue Service letter dated 12th July advising that their Service Performance Plan for 2010/11 is now available on their website www.kent.fire-uk.org
- vi) Parish News from KALC.
- vii) Woodland Trust asking for funds to employ a consultant to mitigate against the damage to woodland if the A21 widening goes ahead. **Clerk to query now widening on hold.**
- viii) ACRK letter detailing a meeting 27th July 2010 (this was emailed at the time)
- ix) A report dated 16th July by TWBC JTB reviewing the winter services in TW
- x) Letter from KCC dated 29th July re recent changes to bus services in June
- xi) Letter from TWBC dated 23rd July – new schedule re Civic Amenity vehicle service
- xii) Letter from TWBC dated 23rd July re cardboard banks at Bring Sites – TWBC intend to withdraw cardboard collection from local sites
- xiii) Part time University courses at the University of Kent

- xiv) Letter from Carter & Faraday Associates re Bin chutes and hopper rooms? (commercial cleaning contractors)

10/119 DIARY DATES

Monday 2nd August - Meeting at TWBC at 10am re Development Plans
Thursday 5th August – meeting with Horsmonden at SPVH re their Parish Plan
Thursday 5th August – Parish Vision meeting at 2pm SPVH
Tuesday 17th August – installation of new book keeping system
Monday 6th September – Full Council Meeting Langton Green Village Hall

10/120 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – Cllr Mrs Soyke said that hedges were completely overgrown in Groombridge Lane between the western entrance of Burrswood and North Lodge (Bird in Hand Street). **(Clerk to investigate)**. It was also suggested that David Jukes be asked to be our Speaker at our AGM next year. **(Clerk to email)**. The clerk produced two roundels that Cllr Langridge had had produced and these would be placed on projects around the village that were funded or supported by the Council. He said that two posts were down on the Green in Groombridge and the matter was in hand. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the Speldhurst Recreation Committee had applied for the third grant for the refurbishment project of the Speldhurst pavilion. She said there would be speed watch training and in September there would be visits to schools. Cllr Mrs Waters said that school children had been talking to speeding drivers in some areas and she was hoping that Speldhurst School might adopt this approach. Cllr Langridge added that there had been a recent speed watch survey carried out in Groombridge. Cllr Mrs Podbury also asked whether action was required to preserve the speed camera in Langton Green now that the new Government sending out mixed signals to Councils.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.02pm

CHAIRMAN