



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 at 7.30pm  
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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Cllr Barrington-Johnson introduced Bartholomew Wren (Economic Development Officer for Regeneration and Transport at TWBC) who gave a short talk about the role and purpose of the TWBC Cycling Strategy and the cycle route proposal for Langton Green. He confirmed that an extension to Speldhurst would be considered but that this would be included as an 'aspirational' goal at this stage because of problems with inconsistent footpaths and variable speed limits, especially the section that reverted to the national speed limit from 40pmh. Councillors said that safety was their first priority but that they are in favour of better cycling provision.

Parish Council business commenced at 7.45pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mercieca, Milner, Parker, Turner

**IN ATTENDANCE:** KCC Cllr John Davies briefly appeared but excused himself because of time constraints.

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were 4 members of the public present, Peter Soyke, Mr Studsgaard plus 2 other members of 'Get Langton Moving' Focus Group.

**16/001 TO ENQUIRE IF ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING:** No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

**16/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Woodward (prior engagement), Mrs M Flemington (holiday), Cllr Allen absent (no apologies sent)

**16/003 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson declared his interest in Minute item 16/012. He is a member of the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) Committee.

**16/004 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Cllr Lyle noted she had received a letter from 'Get Langton Moving' group. She is a Governor of the Langton Green Primary School.

**16/005 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **7<sup>th</sup> December 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman following one correction which was made to Minute Item 15/281 Diary Dates to change Speldhurst Village Hall to Ashurst Village Hall.

**16/006 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** KCC Cllr Davies had no report. Borough Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Mrs Soyke said that there had been few meetings since the last Full Council meeting, and they had nothing to report.

**16/007 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Mr Studsgaard from 'Get Langton Moving' introduced himself and two other members of the group. He explained that the Group currently has two main concerns, safety of the Speldhurst Road crossing for Langton Green Primary School children and parking conditions at Langton Green Village Hall. He said that they were in attendance primarily to observe.

Cllr Lyle noted that the Group should regularly keep the Council informed about pedestrian and cycling issues. It was also noted that the Group could attend Council Highways Meetings in the future.

**16/008 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Soyke**

- a) A meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- b) There have been no budget virements;
- c) There have been two payments agreed at the Finance Committee meeting, two transfers of £25,000 from the Unity Bank to Cambridge Building Society and HSBC and a direct debit for the Clerk's mobile phone of £30.22. Purchases were made on the pre-paid credit card of £103 and a lock for £5.11; both for storage of the rock salt, a further payment of £51.92 for two computer keyboards were made.
- d) The payment of £51.92 was authorised under the Clerk's delegated authority; the £103 payment was made under the delegated authority of the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk.
- e) The purchase of a solar light of approximately £100 for the Langton Green village sign was discussed and it was agreed to wait for the Groombridge light to be installed before making a decision on this.

**16/009 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mercieca**

Notification of additional transactions in December

Unity Bank	25,000	Transfer to Cambridge BS
Unity Bank	25,000	Transfer to HSBC
BT PLC	30.22	Mobile

Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card

George & Dragon	AO82	308.85	Refreshments
Sainsburys	AO83	10.00	*Stationery
Amazon	AO84	103.00	Storage
Amazon	AO86	5.11	Lock for storage
Quick Fix UK Ltd	AO85	5.98	*Badge
Amazon	AO87	51.92	*Computer

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
TW & District CAB	MT701	1,000	Grant
Prestige Web Marketing	MT702	60.00	Quarterly Back up
Viking Direct	MT703	62.03	Stationery & postage
Mr L Cooper	MT704	404.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT705	48.07	Expenses
C May	MT706	25.65	Expenses
K Plunkett	MT707	25.20	Expenses
M Flemington	MT708	23.55	Expenses

M Flemington	MT709	700.48	Salary
C May	MT710	1,467.20	Salary
K Plunkett	MT711	559.86	Salary
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT712	22.50	Meeting Rooms
RIP Cleaning Services	MT713	216.00	Canine Refuse Collection
HMRC	MT693	1,611.92	Tax and NI
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	56.00	Non Domestic rates

**Total payments** **6,282.46**

\*Payment made under the Clerk's delegated authority

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

#### **16/010 TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH CYCLING STRATEGY:**

The cycling strategy was discussed and concerns were raised about the practicality of using Rusthall High Street and Rusthall Common. The Council **RESOLVED** to give broad support to the principle of the strategy of encouraging more people to cycle in safe circumstances. They said that they would like to see more details about how certain areas would be managed and that the extension to Speldhurst be considered.

#### **16/011 HIGHWAYS:**

There has not been a meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Milner referred the Committee to the Highways section of the Clerks report.

Cllr Mrs Lyle asked if it would be helpful to send a ParentMail about Speedwatch Training which is to be held on January 20th. This was agreed but the Clerk asked her to emphasise that some sessions are needed between 7.45am and 9.30am when traffic is at its peak.

The verge opposite Mead House between Speldhurst and Langton Green was discussed. The Clerk confirmed that the KCC Enforcement Officer is dealing with this matter and the Contractor (Quince) will be held responsible.

#### **16/012 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

- a) Pavilion report – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys summarised the position regarding containers needed by various parties to solve storage issues. The Football Club have agreed to pay for their container but the Cricket Club do not have the funds to pay for theirs but could repay over a period of years. Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) would like to move their container, currently on private land, to the Recreation Ground although a proposed time is not yet firm but it would be after the village fete in July.

The Committee discussed whether one 40ft container or two 20ft containers for the sports clubs would be preferable and it was decided that two 20 ft containers would be the better option to be located at the western end of the new pavilion.

The container for the LGVS would be best located on the east side of the extension car park, near to the existing container.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the Clerk approach TWBC to discuss whether planning permission would be required for the three containers.

- b) Car Parking Licence - The Clerk reported that KCC had sent new documents which Councillors did not have time to consider so this item will be deferred to the February Agenda.

- c) Parking safety in LGRG car park was discussed. Cllr Parker said that the problem only occurred at certain times – Mon-Fri 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-3.45pm and Saturday mornings because of football. Cllr Mrs Lyle noted that the Breakfast Club is due to start shortly and this could ease congestion. A drop off system and a walking bus between the car park and the school was also discussed. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that the footpaths built beside the car park were to ensure the safe passage of parents and children. It was agreed that a crossing patrol was of paramount importance.

It was noted that KCC have recently done a pedestrian count to assess whether crossing control is needed across Speldhurst Road. The results have not yet been received.

The Clerk said that he would find out what the possibilities and implications are of TWBC sending traffic officers to the car park and he will report back to the Highways Committee or Full Council.

Cllr Mercieca suggested that if the situation did not improve Councillors could take part in a survey to assess what could be done to improve safety.

**16/013 TWBC CONSULTATIONS:**

- a) **Draft Budget 2016/17** - The Council would like to commend TWBC for their efforts in formulating the Budget and have no further comments to raise.
- b) **Draft Corporate Responsibilities 2016/17** - The Committee have no comments to make on this document.
- c) **Revised Statement of Community Involvement** - The Council have no comment to make on this document. Cllr Mrs Lyle asked that the Assistant Clerk advise Councillors where TWBC took a different view to that of the Planning Committee in an application.

**16/014 DCLG CONSULTATION:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked that Comments be emailed to the Assistant Clerk to be considered by the Planning Committee. The Committee **RESOLVED** to give delegated authority to the Planning Committee to make comments regarding National Planning.

**16/015 NEWSLETTER:** It was decided not to delay newsletters because of the Air Traffic review date of 28<sup>th</sup> January. Subjects to be included were Parish Plan, defibrillator training, pavilion update, Council Matters, Highways and air traffic.

**16/016 NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST 2017:** The Committee has no nominees.

**16/017 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson had nothing to report.

**16/018 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. There is a meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.
- b) **Planning** – a meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Mrs Horne advised that the committee had asked Cllr Stanyer to “call in” the recent Salomons application and on this occasion he had declined to do so. Cllr Mrs Soyke will ask the Head of Planning at TWBC whether this will go to the TW Planning Committee for consideration.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there had been no meeting since the last Full Council.
- d) **Air Traffic** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that but there are no significant issues to report.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson confirmed that there is nothing to report.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> January when the report from the Research Company will be reviewed.

**16/019 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2015:** No other matters.

**16/020 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- 1. Letter dated December 2015 from HSBC advising of changes to Business Banking Terms and Conditions.
- 2. Markerstudy Leisure News Issue 3 December 2015
- 3. KALC Parish News December 2015
- 4. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> December from British Telecom with Business Complete Account Update
- 5. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> December from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council acknowledging our confirmation of a precept of £137,000 for 2016/2017

6. Email dated 16<sup>th</sup> December from T Wells & District Citizens Advice Bureau thanking SPC for the grant and asking to come and speak at one of the meetings in 2016. It was decided that CAB would be requested to come to the March Full Council meeting.
7. Langton Green Primary School Newsletter dated 18<sup>th</sup> December. The Clerk noted that a school Newsletter is received every week and can be forwarded if required.
8. Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> December from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent inviting the Chairman to his annual Civic Service on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 11am
9. Email dated 19<sup>th</sup> December from Came & Company with Christmas wishes and advising of their Christmas/New Year opening hours.

**16/021 DIARY DATES:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Governance Meeting – Office  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Parish Plan Meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Pavilion Review Meeting – Office **10am**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Planning meeting – Palmer Room, LGVH  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Police Contact Point – St Marys Lane, Speldhurst **12 – 1pm**  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Highways Meeting – Office/ Ellis Room, LGVH  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Air Traffic Meeting – office **10.30**  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Finance Meeting – Office  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Speedwatch training  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Police Contact Point – St Marys Lane, Speldhurst **12 – 1pm**  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Traffic survey, Speldhurst Rd  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Full Council Meeting – Palmer Room, LGVH

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

**16/022 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Turner noted that the signpost at the bottom of Speldhurst Hill by Lower Green Road is very dirty and difficult to read. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that there are also dirty signposts in Langton Green.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson noted that he had received a letter from the Headmaster of Langton Green Primary School thanking the Council for their grant towards additional fencing. Mr Cornelius also expressed thanks for the Council's efforts with the proposed 20mph scheme.

Cllr Mrs Soyke mentioned that a speed sign in Ashurst has been demolished by a machine cutting hedges at Chafford Park.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.16pm.

Chairman