



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in The Committee Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Monday 17th October 2011 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Owen, Parker, Ringrose and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Messrs Culverhouse and Lambert from Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Woodward (prior appointment)
2. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** Cllr Owen declared a personal interest – he has a stepson who attends the Sports Club and his family use the playground
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **The Minutes of 10th August 2011** were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported on a telephone call from Mrs Fryett of Gibbetts who was having trouble negotiating a double buggy and other children to school via the footpaths by Great Footway or Gipps Cross Lane because of overgrown hedges and dog mess. He had received an email from Mrs Lyle regarding dangerous old metal posts near the entrance to the Recreation Ground. The Clerk would pass the details on to Cllr Milner who would investigate. He had also received an email from Mrs Brown-Griffin regarding a car that persistently parks on the footway blocking it for pedestrians – he had passed details on to the Police.
The Clerk referred to the Minutes dated 10th August and said that he had twice reported bottles overflowing to TWBC via the “LocalView” portal on their website. He confirmed that he would be able to keep a better watch on matters once the office was operational.
6. **Public Open Session**
Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern. It was decided to merge this session with the next item.

7. Sports Pavilion – Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

Mr Lambert thanked the Council for forwarding a copy of the existing lease between the Council and the Trustees (LGCT) of the Village Hall and requested that this be used as a framework for approaching the Football Foundation. He said that the lease may have to include the whole Recreation Ground because the Football Foundation would probably be reluctant to fund a pavilion with no guarantee that football would be played there and that this could be in the form of a covenant for sporting purposes. Obviously there would have to be amendments to the lease to reflect the number of years, maintenance clauses etc and he would like to use the Trustees expertise and help.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested that the residents of Winstone Scott Avenue be engaged and kept informed and also asked if the land owned by Ashurst Place could be included. Mr Lambert said that the LGSC had been in contact with Ashurst Place but that no commitment had been forthcoming. The Clerk was requested to contact the LGCT to ask permission on behalf of LGSC that the latter be able to take the lease to the Football Foundation as an initial framework for negotiations (although the precise details of the lease would obviously need to be modified to relate to the Pavilion and the contracting parties).

Mr Lambert said that he hoped that building could take place in the summer of 2013 and if funding was not forthcoming then they hoped that refurbishment and extending of the existing building could take place that year.

8. LGSC pitch rental – Season 2011-12

It was **AGREED** to keep the pitch rental at £2,600 for the forthcoming season.

Cllr Ringrose asked whether the provision of any tennis courts was being considered in the Parish. It was explained that efforts had been made after many young people responded to Parish Vision had shown an interest but that a number of issues such as health and safety, insurance and noise had stopped any existing courts being used. It was also stated that, given the already heavy use of LGRG for other sports, there was no room for tennis courts there.

9. Financial Review

The Clerk presented YTD figures and they were noted.

The projected budget for next year was shown to Cllrs and no changes were proposed.

10. Trees in the Parish

- i. The Clerk had approached Treework to carry out a survey of the trees on the LGRG for a future maintenance schedule but it had not been carried out as yet.
- ii. The inspection of the beech tree had been completed and the report had been circulated to Cllrs. It had been given a clean bill of health with an aerial inspection of the crown base to be considered. The next report would be in 3-4 years.

11. Playground Inspection Report

The annual report noted that there were a number of issues for concern:

- Gyrospiral – top fixing loose
- Aerial runway – minor damage
- Ball Games Area - bolts missing
- Pathway behind the ball stop netting is wearing away
- Some minor wear on swings
- Some grass would require reinstatement or replacement with rubber matting

The Clerk had not managed to complete the repairs but would action these as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said there was a possible cost regarding a footpath behind the ball stop netting. Cllr Parker advised that an accident report book would be needed when the office opened.

12. Langton Green Recreation Ground

- i. The Clerk would circulate suggested wording for the ownership sign and then obtain quotes.
- ii. The Clerk had contacted TWBC but had heard nothing. It was considered that small A5 signs be made with the SPC logo referring to the Dog Fouling Act.
- iii. Re-cycling – see matters arising
- iv. It was **AGREED** that a temporary sign be made warning users of icy conditions at the car park. The Clerk confirmed that KCC would be delivering the one tonne bag of salt/sand mix again this year.

13. Letter to residents re the Twittens

The letter regarding overgrown Twittens would go out in late autumn. It would not organise or instruct, but politely ask residents whose land abuts the footpaths to kindly maintain their part.

14. Asset Register

Work was in progress but would be completed after the office was finished.

15. Camping on LGRG

Cllrs **AGREED** that given the lack of appropriate facilities that camping on the LGRG would not be permissible.

16. Items for Information

Cllr Ringrose asked if any money carried forward in the budget could be used to help complete the Village Hall extension. The Clerk reported that all carried forward money had already been allocated for other purposes.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman