

**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON
30TH JUNE 2021 at 7.30PM
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Langridge, Myles and Turner

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk and Mrs K Neve - Clerk (8.10pm)

1. **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Cllr Rowe remain Chairman of the Amenities committee.

2. **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.

3. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Lyle who was ill and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe who had work commitments.

4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

5. **Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

6. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on **22nd March 2021** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. **Public Open Session**

Mr Paul Curry was attending the meeting to receive an update on parish matters.

8. **Matters Arising and Actions from the Previous Minutes:**

The Assistant Clerk ran through the list of matters from the previous minutes as follows:

- The legionnaires risk assessment had been received and forwarded to the groundsman to consider the necessary action. Cllr Turner said that he had quickly scanned the report and it appeared that some expenditure may be required; we should wait for the groundsman's report but it was agreed that if necessary, this may need to be considered under delegated authority.
- Temporary signs had been put up on the changing room doors in the pavilion to advise that the showers were out of use.
- A Stop-Give Way sign had been installed at the junction between the LGRG carpark and Winstone Scott Avenue.
- A pest control contract had been taken out. Rats had again been seen in the LGRG carpark bin area and the contractor had taken immediate action to eradicate them.
- The anti-idling banners action at Speldhurst School would be carried forward to September when the schools go back after the summer term.
- The island bed on the Green at LG had been grass seeded and the other bed had been tidied up.

9. **Financial Review**

The finance sheets had been circulated and no questions were raised.

10. **Policy for use of Parish Council Land**

The Assistant clerk had drafted a policy which was reviewed by councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk should make the amendments as discussed, contact Zurich to obtain more specific information regarding the use of bouncy castles and submit the document for approval by Full Council.

11. **Bins at Speldhurst**

Residents of Speldhurst had requested a further bin in the village however more information was needed regarding location and quantity. TWBC had advised that they were happy to work with SPC regarding this matter but there would probably be a servicing cost to the parish council. It was noted that SPC had a bin removed by the Hare pub in Langton Green and an enquiry could be made regarding that bin being 'relocated' to Speldhurst to prevent further servicing charges to SPC. Cllr Langridge advised that the bins on the A264 Langton Road were often full having been used by residents to dispose of household waste. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Mrs Barratt to include an article about bins in the village magazine requesting residents contact SPC with specifics regarding location and quantity before a final decision was made.

Parish Council Land: The Green at Langton Green

a) Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG):

- i) Langton Green Village Hall: there was nothing to report.
- ii) SPC Offices: the flowerbed in front of SPC's offices was untidy with children often climbing over the soil making a mess. Various solutions were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** that a recommendation be made to Full Council to spend up to £200 on a decorative chain and posts around the flowerbed border and a suitable planting scheme. Cllr Langridge agreed to organise the planting.
- iii) Pavilion: Cllr Turner advised that he was in the process of conducting a fire risk assessment for the Pavilion to be approved at Full Council and that he would liaise with the groundsman.
- iv) Sports Club: there was nothing to report.

Mrs K Neve, Clerk, joined the meeting at this point.

- v) Play Areas: The annual playground inspection report had been received. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk would liaise with the groundsman regarding any recommended repairs he could carry out and obtain quotes from suitable contractors for all other works.
- vi) Recreation Ground:
 - Picnic benches: It had been decided previously to get six picnic benches installed on the LGRG near to the pavilion café and the Assistant Clerk had circulated various options. Cllr Langridge who is a member of the LG Village Society suggested a request is submitted to them for a donation towards this project. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Turner would liaise with the café proprietor and the Village Society regarding a donation and a recommendation be made to Full Council to spend up to £2,000 towards recycled plastic picnic benches to be installed on the LGRG.
 - Fires/BBQs on the LGRG: Pictures of scorched grass had been sent to SPC indicating residents had lit fires or barbeques on the LGRG. It was unknown if this was an isolated

incident and agreed that the situation would need to be monitored. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact TWBC to ask how they deal with such incidents.

vii) Carpark: the groundsman had noticed campervans were occasionally being parked in the carpark for overnight accommodation. Cllr Langridge agreed to carry out spot checks and would liaise with Cllr Pate who had been dealing with this matter previously.

b) The Green at Langton Green

- i) Maintenance of the footpath and other areas: Cllr Rowe had spent some time looking through the various documents SPC held regarding The Green and it was clear that it was the obligation of the owners to share the maintenance of shared driveways. Confirmation was being obtained from KCC regarding responsibility for maintenance of the path.
- ii) Residents' parking issues: Cllr Mrs Lyle had drafted a response to the resident who was querying the parking arrangements. **RESOLVED** that the Chairman would forward the letter to the Assistant Clerk to formalise and send and that if this did not resolve the situation, legal advice would be sought to ensure SPC was meeting its legal obligations and the matter then left to residents to resolve themselves.
- iii) Cllr Rowe said that a skip had been located outside The Forge for some time and councillors were concerned it may have ruined the grass. The Assistant Clerk was asked to check that the land in question does belong to SPC and if the resident had asked permission for the skip. Consideration would then be given to writing to the owners asking them to reinstate the grass once the skip had been removed.

c) The Green at Groombridge

Cllrs Rowe and Myles (who is a resident of The Green) had discussed the various options to prevent further erosion of The Green during a site meeting and come to the conclusion that the installation of vertical sleepers embedded at 6 ft intervals along the outer edge would be both the most effective and attractive solution. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Myles would canvass the views of residents of The Green, Groombridge regarding the installation of vertical sleepers. If this suggestion was acceptable, quotations would be obtained.

d) Pocket Park, Speldhurst

Cllr Rowe had reported damage to the stone wall which runs along the boundary of the Pocket Park with Penshurst Road. The Assistant Clerk had been unable to find a stonemason prepared to carry out the necessary repairs. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would ask TWBC if they could recommend a stonemason and the Assistant Clerk would ask the Stonemason in Speldhurst (who was unable to carry out the repair due to insurance restrictions) for a recommendation. It was noted that the road may need to be closed whilst the repairs are being carried out.

12. Amenities Communication Priorities for 2021: Cllrs Rowe and Turner had written sections of the response from the Amenities Working Group. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk completes the appropriate form using the text provided and submits it to the Admin Assistant.

Cllr Turner asked if the subject of Defibrillators could be included in the next run of magazine articles to raise awareness of the facilities available in each village in the parish and asked for a review of the defibs to be carried out as it was felt the current facilities were inadequate. Cllr Myles asked that the subject be considered at Full Council.

13. Items for Information:

Cllr Turner said that he attended a KCC zoom webinar on electric vehicle charging points. There was now full funding available from KCC and he asked that the matter be considered further by Full

Council. The Environment Working Group would carry out a survey of residents to ascertain their views if agreed by Full Council.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.14pm .

Chairman