

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 17th MARCH 2008 at 7.45pm

IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs. Crundwell, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Mrs Podbury, Ellis, Jukes, Parker, Stevens and Wheeler

1 member of the public
Richard Williams (Courier Reporter)

2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Mrs Soyke (holiday)
Cllr. Mrs Waters (baby sitter problems)
Cllr. Dixon (recovering from operation)
Cllr. Palmer (holiday)

2024 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys – Personal and Prejudicial - Item 13 Middlefield – Planning Application

2025 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February 2008, having previously been distributed to members, were approved and signed.

2026 AGENDA ITEMS

2015 P.A.C.T. (Partners and Communities Together)

Councillors agreed that the following should be taken forward :

1. Speed of traffic through our villages (20mph zones outside schools)
2. Safe road crossings
3. Parking concerns (parking on pavements creating an obstruction for pedestrians)

1825-3 Ashurst Village Play Area / Registering of Common Ground

The clerk was waiting a reply from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

1887-4 Highways Projects

Following Cllr. Mrs Podbury`s and the clerk`s meeting with Andy Smart a revised Projects list had been forwarded to all councillors.

Councillors agreed to press Highways for a Give Way sign at the bottom of Stockland Green Road (item 7).

The clerk was asked to contact John Davies for an update on item 10 (making good footpaths - Barden Road).

1939-7 Langton Green School – Safer Crossing Area – Grant

The clerk was asked to chase the Solicitors.

1960 Parish Council Surgeries

Cllr. Mrs Soyke had attended the surgery with the clerk and was joined by PCSO Ray Nuttall and two members of the public.

Issues raised :

Two members of Langton Green Primary School's PTA – extremely concerned with the safety of children crossing Speldhurst Road.

The Parish Council agreed that the crossing from the Recreation Ground to the Twitten would become increasingly busy with the opening of the New Village Hall and the new installation of the new play and teen areas in early summer and would press Kent Highways for the criteria on a permanent crossing.

Items brought forward from previous Surgeries not covered by Agenda items :

February 2008

- Condition of roads and footpaths in Speldhurst
- Twitten opposite Langton Green Recreation Ground - flooding.
- Concerns regarding school children crossing the road from Langton Green Recreation Ground to the Twitten.
- `NO BALL GAMES` signs outside of the Village Hall.

November 2007

- Condition of roads and footpaths in Speldhurst

December 2007

- Push for 20mph speed limits outside both Langton and Speldhurst schools
- White line marking when exiting LGRG
- Overgrown and muddy footpath along Speldhurst Road (just before Burnt House Lane)

1965 Conservation Area

Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis agreed to contact Mr Tom Shields regarding the cutting back of shrubbery. Revised quote forwarded to Brian Hayward for the fencing around The Green, Groombridge.

1975 – Parking Concerns – Parish Council signs

It was agreed to purchase four signs (maximum £31 each). Cllr. Trevor Stevens agreed to contact the owner of the Violin shop.

1978-6 Hollonds Farm

The clerk was asked to obtain an update from Paul Cole.

1887-7 Play and Teen Areas

Contract with TWBC had been signed. Work would commence on 14th April which was earlier than anticipated. Greg Clark had agreed to attend the Official Opening on 11th July.

1988 Middlefield – Planning Application

Slight alteration to the layout had been submitted. Parish Council had submitted their response strengthening their previous comments.

2005 Annual Parish Council Meeting – Format and Guest Speaker

The clerk was asked to order 6 large posters which would allow for posters to be placed in Groombridge and Ashurst. Cllr. Ron Ellis agreed to organise the wine.

The suggested Agenda was agreed. Cllr. Crundwell asked that Committee Reports be brief.

2007-2 Ashurst Traffic Lights

A week long Speedwatch had been carried out and the clerk was asked to contact Andy Smart to confirm the criteria for an interactive speed sign.

2011-3 Land Adjacent to Rusthall House

Paul Cole had responded that Rusthall House were complying with the required landscaping which should be finished by the end of March. The clerk was asked to contact Paul Cole again regarding the gate.

2022-1 Parish Council`s Representatives on the Village Hall Trusts

Terms of Reference would be drawn up and discussed at the May / June meetings.

2027 MATTERS FOR UPDATING from the Minutes dated 18th February 2008

1896-12 Local Crime Community Sentence - Nothing to report.

1925-3 Parish Plans – It was agreed not to pursue this at the current time.

1935 Heathgate Corner - Nothing to report

1952-3 Parish Council Web Site

Councillors suggested pictures of the Village Halls and the Green at Groombridge.

2001 Speldhurst Hill Footpath - Nothing to report.

2002 PIPKIN – Report by Cllr. Mrs Joy Podbury - Nothing to report – see KALC report.

2004 Parish Councillor Vacancies – Procedure

The suggested timetable was agreed.

Tuesday, 22nd April – NOTICE PLACED calling for a minimum 10 electorate to request an election

Friday, 9th May – WE WILL KNOW IF AN ELECTION HAD BEEN CALLED

Thursday, 12th or 19th June – TWBC`s suggested dates for ELECTION

If no election

Monday, 19th May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Monday, 19th May – closing date for applications

2nd June – EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING – Interviews

16th June – Parish Council Meeting – Welcome new Councillors

2011-1 Cllr. Crundwell and the clerk had met with Cliff Worcester regarding the hanging of the gates to the entrance of LGRG. Cllr. Crundwell would obtain a quotation for the welding.

2018-1 Langton Green Flower Club – It was agreed to the request to plant a tree outside of the entrance to the Village Hall.

2018-3 – Speed hump inside the gates to the LGRG – the clerk was asked to obtain a quotation.

2028 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Speldhurst Village Society – thank you for grant for retirement reception
2. Langton Green Fete Programme – ¼ A5 page spread free – Councillors to send ideas to the clerk by the end of the week
3. TWBC – Affordable Housing Needs Survey – due 2008/09 – Clerk to arrange a meeting.

2029 DIARY DATES

12th April – Parish Council Surgery – Langton Green Village Hall – 10.30am – 12 noon

11th July – Official Opening of the Play and Teen Areas – 5.30pm
Guest Greg Clark MP

2030 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning. Cllr. Crundwell reported on the meetings held on 27th February and 4th March 2008, the Minutes having previously been distributed to Councillors.

Finance. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the Committee had met on 25th February, the Minutes having previously been distributed to Councillors.

Although the balance looks healthy there is a lot of expenditure planned for next year, particularly the new Play and Teen Areas in Langton Green.

The committee recommended that the CCTV be put on hold to be reviewed later in the year.

The Committee had agreed an increase in the legal fees to £750 in connection with the Easement over the land for the extension to the footpath.

Footpaths. Cllr. Stevens reported on the recent working party and also that his `team` had agreed to clear the footpath near Burnt House Lane and install posts.

Recreation. Cllr. Ellis reported on the Committee meeting held on 12th March, the Minutes having previously been circulated to Councillors.

Cllr. Ellis asked for approval from the Parish Council for the sum of £3,000 for the installation of cricket netting to the side of the Play Area which was unanimously agreed.

K.A.L.C. Cllr. Mrs Podbury had attended the recent KALC meeting. All Parishes reported frustration at Highways and that PIPKIN was unlikely to benefit any of them. KALC had been asked to write to Kent Highways.

KALC had suggested that Parish Council Meetings should have a specific `public session` time.

2031 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID – March 2008

1.	D.K. Fencing	£ 150.00	Fencing - LGRG
2.	Langton GCT	£ 55.82	Hire of Hall
3.	RIP	£ 98.70	Canine refuse bins
4.	Weald Bus Systems	£ 161.76	Station
5.	Speldhurst VH	£ 500.00	Grant – redecoration of VH
6.	Pauline Lambell	£ 207.04	Expenses – Stationery, travel, stamps
7.	David Crundwell	£ 135.00	Chairman`s Allowance – April 2008
8.	Pauline Lambell	£1,235.34	Salary
9.	Inland Revenue	£ 453.60	Tax / NI
10.	KCC	£1,136.19	Second Half Yearly Maintenance – LGRG
11.	Speldhurst Village Hall	£ 18.00	Hire of Hall
12.	Cllr. Richard Wheeler	£ 26.26	Travel Expenses
TOTAL		£4,177.71	

1st April Allianz Insurance plc £2,003.94

1st April – KALC £1,157.38

Total Expenditure for 2007 / 08 £59,765.27

2032 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Cllr. Jukes updated the meeting on Speldhurst`s yellow lines. An Order had been placed and notices will need to be delivered to households.

2. Overgrown laurels near the Old Post Office, Barden Road. Cllr. Mrs Podbury and the clerk were arranging a `village walk`.
3. The posts in Southfields needed attention.
4. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys had recently spoken with Peter Blackwell (Chairman of the Standards Board) who had emphasised the increased role of Parish Clerks.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

CHAIRMAN