

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 16th JUNE 2008 at 7.45pm

IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Waters, Ellis, Parker, Stevens and Wheeler

5 Members of the public – Item 1988 – Middlefield Planning Application
Richard Williams (Courier Reporter)

2052 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Personal	Cllr. Mrs Soyke - Item 1825-3 – Ashurst Village Play Area / Registering of Common Ground
Personal and Prejudicial	Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys - Item 1988 - Middlefield Planning Application

2053 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present

2054 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meetings held on 12th May and 2nd June 2008, having previously been distributed to members, were approved and signed with the following amendment being approved :

Item 1825-3 `Cllr. Mrs Soyke has been unable to find anything recorded since 1810 and it would appear that these smaller plots have been forgotten`.

2055 AGENDA ITEMS

2056 Co-option of Councillors – Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Rosemary Hull, Peter Brown, Gerry Colley and Ed Langridge, being appointed co-opted councillors, duly signed their Declaration of Interests and were welcomed to the meeting.

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys introduced the Parish Councillors and each provided a short introduction to themselves.

2057 Committees – 2008 / 09

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys advised the meeting that Cllr. Mrs Podbury had agreed to stand down from the Finance Committee to give new councillors an opportunity to sit on one of the main committees of the Parish Council. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys proposed and all agreed that Cllrs. Brown and Langridge be appointed to the Planning Committee and Cllrs. Mrs Hull and Colley be appointed to the Finance Committee. New councillors duly agreed to accept these committee positions.

A Committee List for 2008 / 09 is attached to these Minutes.

1988 Middlefield Planning Application

It was unanimously agreed that this item be brought forward on the Agenda and Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys duly declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest and left the room.

Cllr. Mrs Soyke (Vice Chairman) duly chaired this item.

Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Chairman of the Planning Committee, agreed to attend and speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Western Area Planning Committee on 18th June and stressed that the Parish Council were not against the development merely the access route being via The Boundary as opposed to a direct route via the current access off the A264.

Members of the public were given an opportunity to air their views and were extremely appreciative that the Parish Council would be attending this Meeting.

2058 Annual Return and Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys advised that an internal financial check had been carried out on the 16th June by herself and Cllr. Mrs Soyke and was found to be in order.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys and unanimously agreed, that the clerk should hold the position of Responsible Financial Officer.

The Annual Return, having been duly circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, was unanimously agreed and duly signed.

The Annual Governance Statement was unanimously agreed and signed by the Chair and Clerk.

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

The clerk reported that Donaldson West had confirmed a premium of £500 for an Indemnity Insurance Policy of £200,000 on the common ground. A declaration would need to be given to the insurers that the area had been maintained. They would also require pictures and an index map search. Donaldson West suggested that planning permission be in place prior to taking out the insurance as this may bring out anyone with an interest.

Cllr. Mrs Soyke agreed to carry out a village survey.

1887-4Highways

i) Highways Projects

The clerk was meeting her new liaison officer and would obtain an update.

Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, County Councillor John Davies and the clerk had met with two representatives from Jacobs to discuss the following :

ii) Crossing from the Recreation Ground to The Twitten

Jacobs would be recommending to Kent Highways that a `virtual narrowing` be installed on either side of the carriageway at The Twitten with additional signage on the approaches to the school junction and The Twitten.

iii) **Speldhurst Hill – safe crossing**

Jacobs confirmed that this required an in depth study due to the complexity of the location.

iv) **Barden Road – footpaths**

Jacobs confirmed that the footpath remedial work would be addressed in the final report.

1935 Heathgate Corner

The clerk was asked to follow up the SLOW road marking.

1939-7 Langton Green School – Safer Crossing Area

Mr Tom Shields had agreed to the wording of the Licence. The clerk had contacted Kent Highways and was waiting confirmation on agreement to their part of this project.

1960 Parish Council Surgeries

2 surgeries since the last meeting.

13th May – attended by Cllrs. Mrs Soyke, Ellis, PCSO Ray Nuttall and the clerk.

Items raised :

Roger Dixon – Smallbrook Farm Fields – relevant/current position for use
Edward Langridge – interested in Parish Councillor vacancies.

3rd June – attended by Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke, Ellis, Parker, PCSO Ray Nuttall and the clerk.

Items raised :

Gerry Colley – information on being a Parish Councillor
John Avis – update on the Langton School crossings

Next Surgery on Monday, 14th July – 2- 3.30pm in Committee Room - Langton Green Village Hall.

1965 Conservation Area

The following update had been received from Brian Hayward, TWBC.

Langton Green – two tenders received for the tree works and also for the works to the War Memorial, paths, lychgate etc but a third quotation is required for this work. Works have been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee but need official signing off by the Registrar.

Speldhurst and Groombridge – due to Kent Highways Services priorities during their recent period of change, it has not been possible for TWBC to procure improvements on highway land – this should improve in the coming weeks.

The clerk was asked to contact Brian Hayward to ensure that the monies allocated for these projects were not lost.

1887-7 Play and Teen Areas

Cllr. Mrs Soyke updated the meeting on the current position and advised that the areas were on track for completion well in time for the Official Opening on Friday, 11th July.

Two large posters will be displayed and official invitations sent out.

2007-2 Ashurst Interactive Speed Sign

Clerk to chase Highways on information for an interactive speed sign.

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

Nothing to report.

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

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference as previously circulated to Councillors.

2028-3 TWBC – Affordable Housing Needs Survey – the clerk was asked to arrange a meeting for either a Monday or Wednesday evening - 7.30pm start.

2042 Ball Stop Netting

Following a further discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should place the order with Jacksons Fencing.

2059 BT Telephone Box – it was agreed to delay response until after the July meeting.

2060 Appointment of Parish Council Representative on Langton Green Charitable Trust

It was agreed to contact one of the candidates who had applied for the Councillor vacancies and the clerk and Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys would discuss.

2061 MATTERS FOR UPDATING

from the Minutes dated 12th May and 2nd June 2008

2043 Trustees of Langton Green Charitable Trust – letter dated 31st March 2008

- i) **Public Liability Insurance** – the Trustees felt that £1M Public Liability Insurance was adequate. The clerk would obtain further information and report to the July meeting.
- ii) **Transfer to the Parish Council of the strip of land to the side of former Watson Hall**
The clerk confirmed that Donaldson West, solicitors would be pleased to act on behalf of the Parish Council.
- iii) **Future expansion of the Langton Green Village Hall** - Nothing to report.

2044 Letter of Petition for Skate Park – Langton Green Recreation Ground - nothing to report.

1975 – Parking Concerns – Parish Council signs - Signs had been ordered.

2011-3 Land Adjacent to Rusthall House

The clerk confirmed the Appeal Decision dated December 2005 `Third parties including SPC have objected on highway safety grounds to the vehicular access near the east end of the site, arguing in particular that it had not existed as a usable access for many years. This objection is not supported by the local planning authority, who considers that the access has improved a bad situation. There is no objection from the highway authority. In these circumstances this objection is insufficient to justify the dismissal of the appeal`.

It was agreed to monitor the situation.

2001 Speldhurst Hill Footpath - See 1887-4 Highways Projects above.

2011-1 Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis would provide the clerk with details of a blacksmith.

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

2032-3 Posts in Southfields – The clerk had chased Highways who advised that as this was not essential work it would not be classed as urgent.

2047-1 South East Regional Assembly – Cllr. Mrs Podbury reported on the document.

2047-2 Barbed wire fencing at the top of Groombridge Hill. TWBC confirmed that as this work was only temporary it was not a concern.

2062 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. TWBC Consultation on the TWBC Draft Housing Allocation Policy – handed to Cllr. Mrs Podbury.

2. Speldhurst resident – excessive speed and traffic through the village.

A discussion followed regarding Speed Watch sessions. These were currently being carried out by Cllr. Mrs Podbury, the clerk and PCSO Ray Nuttall to gain statistics. Currently little interest from village volunteers. It was suggested that an interactive speed sign in Ashurst would give us data to carry forward to our other villages.

3. Accident on A264 – trees taken out – the clerk had written to the owner of the car involved advising the Parish Council`s interest in the accident.

4. KALC – Councillors Information Training Days – the clerk was asked to circulate information to new councillors

5. South East Regional Assembly – Review of sub-regional allocation of primary land won aggregates in the South East – handed to Cllr. Mrs Podbury.

6. Summer multi-sports – TWBC use of Recreation Ground 15th and 22nd August 1.30 – 3.30pm. The Parish Council could see no problem with the use of the LGRG.
7. The Grange Management Company – parking concerns. The clerk and Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys would arrange to take a look and report back.
8. Langton Green resident concerned with cars parking in Stonewall Park Road. The clerk and Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys would arrange to visit.
9. 17 Roopers – concerns regarding trees overhanging into their property from The Twitten. Cllr. Stevens and the clerk would investigate further.
10. Local Filter for the Investigation of Complaints. Training day for clerks, chairman and vice chairman.
11. Speldhurst resident does not accept Highway`s confirmation that the repeater signs on Speldhurst Hill are correct. The clerk to arrange a visit.
12. A letter had been received from the Langton Green Charitable Trust concerning extension to the hours of the Nursery School and also the installation of a retractable blind. It was agreed in principle to the blind. The extension to hours would be discussed fully at the July meeting.

2063 DIARY DATES

28th June – Speldhurst Village Fete

5th July – Langton Green Village Fete

11th July – Official Opening of the Play and Teen Areas – 6pm
Guest Greg Clark MP

14th July – Parish Council Surgery – Langton Green Village Hall 2 - 3.30pm

2064 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning. Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis reported on the meeting held on 27th May 2008, the Minutes having previously been distributed to Councillors. Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis advised that TWBC provided training days for councillors and the clerk was asked to make enquiries.

Finance. Committee Meeting would be arranged shortly.

Footpaths. Cllr. Stevens reported on the Committee`s Annual Meeting held on 9th June the report having previously been circulated to councillors. Cllr. Stevens advised that a number of hedges were being replaced with fences which changed the street scene in the villages and affected the wildlife.

Recreation. Cllr. Ellis requested that consideration be given to boot scrapers outside of the Pavilion. Work had commenced on the moss clearing from the roof.

K.A.L.C. Nothing to report.

2065 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID – May 2008

1.	RIP	£	98.70	Canine Refuse
2.	Langton Green CT	£	4.75	Hire of Hall
3.	KALC	£	5.00	5 x Good Councillors Guides
4.	M.R. Lawrence	£	180.00	Grass cutting Roopers
5.	M.R. Lawrence	£	130.00	Strimming Common Ground – Ashurst
6.	Southern Water	£	21.52	Waste Water – Pavilion
7.	C. Worcester	£	110.00	Repairs – Pavilion
8.	Glass Supplies	£	70.61	Reglazing – Pavilion
9.	Speldhurst VH	£	39.00	Hire of Hall
10.	Beric Webb	£	504.00	Fete Insurance (Langton Green)
11.	Pauline Lambell	£	1,235.93	Salary
12.	Inland Revenue	£	454.71	Tax / NI
TOTAL			£2,854.22	

2066 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Cllr. Colley reported that 9 residents from Marchiennes would be attending the Langton Green Fete.
2. Cllr. Stevens advised that residents in St Marys Lane would like to put up a sign and the clerk suggested All Signs in St Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells.
3. Cllr. Mrs Waters reported more dog fouling in Speldhurst and the clerk was asked to contact the Dog Warden.
4. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys requested that with the holiday period fast approaching, councillors inform the clerk of their holiday dates.
5. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys informed the meeting that Trevor Palmer would no longer writing the Parish Council article in the Langton Life. It was agreed that Ed Langridge should write the Parish Council article. He would check the first few articles with the clerk.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

CHAIRMAN

SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL

COMMITTEES 2008 / 09

Finance Committee

Lynn Jeffreys (ex-officio)
Gerry Colley
Rosemary Hull
Trevor Parker
Julia Soyke
Charlotte Waters
Richard Wheeler

Planning Committee

Julia Soyke (ex-officio)
Peter Brown
Ron Ellis
Ed Langridge
Jennie Paulson-Ellis (Chair)
Joy Podbury
Trevor Stevens
Richard Wheeler

Footpaths

Trevor Stevens

Recreation

Ron Ellis (Chair)
Trevor Parker
Jennie Paulson-Ellis
Charlotte Waters

KALC Representatives

Joy Podbury
Julia Soyke

Sub-Committee - Langton Green Recreation Ground Play Area

Lynn Jeffreys
Joy Podbury
Julia Soyke

Sub-Committee – Transfer of Land

Lynn Jeffreys
Joy Podbury
Charlotte Waters