



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 16th April 2012 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury (arrived at 8.20pm), Mrs Soyke, Hemming, Parker, Owen, Pendleton and Woodward (arrived at 7.45pm)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Langridge (Illness), Cllr Milner (Holiday) and Borough Cllrs Stanyer and Jukes

12/161 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

Cllr Parker – 11i) & iii) – LGCT proposals in respect of LGRG car park – personal and prejudicial
Cllr Mrs Soyke – Ashurst Flagpole – personal and prejudicial

12/162 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:

Cllr Mrs Hull – She has been spoken to by residents regarding Local Needs Housing.

12/163 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **5th March 2012**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record. The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on **27th March 2012**, having been previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

12/164 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT:

County Cllr John Davies, Borough Cllrs David Jukes and Julian Stanyer were not present.
Cllr Mrs Soyke spoke of the serious occurrence of Asian long horned beetle at Paddock Wood.
The Clerk referred to an email he had received from Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer stating that some site specific allocations under the LDF may be on Green Belt land. **The Clerk will clarify with Cllr Stanyer whether this is to be discussed at the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on 23rd April.**

12/165 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:

There were no members of the public present.

12/166 LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING:

- i) The Clerk confirmed that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to discuss Local Needs Housing will be held on Monday 23rd April at 7.30pm in the Ellis Room, Langton Green Village Hall. The Notices will be posted on the notice boards on 17th April.
- ii) The Clerk reported that TWBC are standing by their decision that the original wording of the motion proposed at the Parish Poll meeting was not a question and that a further meeting would have to be held to agree on a question before the poll could go ahead. He has advised Mrs Smith-Tilley that Greg Clark MP has offered to hold a meeting on 25th May and asked if the Save Our Green Belt Group would defer another Parish meeting until after this meeting. The Clerk had also suggested that a postal referendum might be preferable to a Poll as it might have a larger circulation and a higher response from the electorate.

12/167 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Parker

- i) There have been no Committee meetings since the last Full Council Meeting.
- ii) Cllr Parker reported that there had been six email decisions by the Finance Committee. The annual subscription to CPRE of £29 was approved; the cost of £125 plus VAT for renewal of the speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk domain name was agreed; the cost of £388 plus VAT for installing additional shelving and hanging the Parish map in the Parish Office was agreed; the cost of £150 for the boards to advertise the Annual Parish Assembly was agreed; a grant of £400 to LGRS toward their annual insurance was agreed and the Clerk's overtime of 7.25 hours was approved.
- iii) The Clerk reported that he has completed the VAT return and employment tax details. A Governance meeting is to be held on 3rd May. The forms have not yet been received from the Audit Commission.
- iv) The Clerk reported that the new banking arrangements are in progress.

12/168 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Soyke

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
TWBC	344	-100.00	Deposit refunded
ACRK	DD	35.00	Annual Subs
EDF Energy	DD	108.00	LG pavilion Electricity quarter
M R Lawrence	348	320.00	Mowing March/April
RIP Cleaning Services	349	189.00	Dog Bins March
LGCT	350	15.89	Office Electricity
Mr L Cooper	351	100.00	Groundsman's duties Mar
Premier Digital	352	228.00	Boards re APA
Ashurst Place Rest Home	353	350.00	Field Rental 2012-13
KALC	354	1,368.00	Annual Subscription
Speldhurst Village Hall	355	25.52	Hall Hire Jan-March
BT PLC	356	30.00	Mobile
HMRC	357	746.18	NICS & Tax
HMRC	358	35.80	Underpayment 2011-12
M Flemington	359	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	360	45.55	Expenses
C May	361	1,425.07	Salary
C May	362	154.68	Expenses
Haymarket Media Group	DD	101.00	Planning magazine subs
TWBC	363	90.36	Business Rates 27/1-31/3
Total payments		5,891.46	

Cllr Mrs Podbury arrived at 8.20pm. The Highways Report below was given when she arrived (after 12/174).

12/169 HIGHWAYS REPORT:

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that she had attended the Joint Transportation Board meeting at TWBC earlier that evening. There had been much discussion regarding the problem of parking on pavements which she said is currently a major issue in Northfields, Speldhurst. There were also long discussions with a working party being set up to consider the replacement of pavers in Tunbridge Wells with black tarmac. It was reported that parking attendants have visited Speldhurst several times in recent weeks.

The lay-by in Langton Green was discussed and the **Clerk will seek clarification from Cllr Langridge and TWBC of the current parking regulations.**

The Clerk referred to his written report and advised that works at Stone Cross and the speed limit reductions at Ashurst and Groombridge are progressing slowly.

12/170 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK:

- i) The Clerk reported that the meeting with the Solicitor regarding the car park was cancelled as the Solicitor was unwell and will now be held on 25th April.
- ii) The request from LGSC to use the Recreation Ground for their Football Fiesta on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June was **AGREED.**
- iii) The request from the LGRS for the use of the Recreation Ground car park for the Fete on Saturday 7th July was **AGREED.**

12/171 LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to the Clerk's report on the meeting they both attended at Speldhurst Primary School on 15th March. Cllr Mrs Soyke offered to assist in trying to secure a disabled parking space on the road outside the School for a disabled parent. The Clerk reported that initial investigations indicate that the electricity meter schemes for the schools could be quite expensive. It was also noted that there had been three accidents recently outside the school.

12/172 DIAMOND JUBILEE:

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that an acer tree is to be planted in the Pocket Park in Speldhurst and that Peter Blackwell the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent will be invited to attend. The date of Friday 1st June was proposed. **Cllr Milner to purchase from Speldhurst Nurseries.**
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that both Schools will be asked to suggest a date for the School presentations. The wording of the award from the Parish Council was discussed and **AGREED** as 'The Jubilee Award for Olympic Spirit'. Cups or other suitable trophies will be chosen by Councillors.

12/173 LGRG SPORTS PAVILION:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to the Clerk's report on the meeting they both attended with LGSC on 14th March. The Clerk advised that initial discussions with HMRC suggest that VAT will be incurred on all work because of the complex funding arrangements. Discussions with LGSC are ongoing.

12/174 BROADBAND:

Cllr Woodward referred to his written report and advised that more residents are needed to sign up to 'Make Kent Quicker'. Cllr Pendleton suggested doing this through the Schools and putting articles in all the village magazines.

12/175 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported on the first Annual Parish Assembly held on 2nd April at Speldhurst Village Hall. She said the number of stalls was very good, there had been a good turnout of residents, positive feedback from the community and that Bob Atwood had been an excellent speaker. Stallholders are being asked for feedback on the evening and some have already expressed an interest in speaking at next year's event. She thanked Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Langridge for all their help in setting up the event.

12/176 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the event held at TWBC on 14th March was well organised but did not provide any definitive information.

Several Councillors and the Clerk are attending an event at Brenchley on 19th April when Greg Clark MP is speaking about Localism.

Cllr Woodward will speak to TWBC and Cllr Mrs Hull will raise the matter at the next KALC meeting to try and obtain further relevant information.

12/178 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – A Committee meeting was held on 15th March and the next one is to be held on 3rd May. The Complaints Policy was **AGREED and ADOPTED**. The Governance Terms of Reference (TOR) and the Terms of Reference for Internal Audit were **AGREED and ADOPTED** with the following amendments: RFO is to be expended for a full explanation on both TOR documents and item 9 on the Governance TOR should read “The committee will devise and implement policies and action plans arising from 7 and 8”. The Office opening hours were discussed and **AGREED**.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to some measures that were coming into force with the Localism Act 2011 and in particular Council’s ability to take action against people who deliberately conceal unauthorised development and use retrospective planning applications.
- iii) Amenities – In Cllr Milner’s absence the Clerk reported that an Amenities Committee meeting was held on 12th March. TWBC have agreed to pay 50% of the cost of the Ashurst Flagpole and 50% of the cost of new posts on The Green at Langton Green. There would be a committee meeting in the near future and the scheme for The Green would be discussed and would be referred to the Finance Committee for authorisation in due course.
- iv) Footpaths – In Cllr Milner’s absence the Clerk referred to his written report which said that Cllr Langridge had made contact with a resident in Fordcombe about possible restoration of some old gates. Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that County Cllr John Davies is being very helpful in trying to get KCC to resolve the footpath problem at Stone Cross.
- v) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull advised that the next KALC Committee meeting is at the end of May. She will raise Neighbourhood Planning and Polls/Referendums and report back on the KCC Parish Council Legal Scheme.
- vi) Environment – A meeting of the Working Group will be deferred until after the May meeting.

12/179 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5th MARCH 2012:

Cllr Mrs Hull advised that we are still waiting to hear the result of the Big Tree Fund Grant application and that she had obtained letters of support for the application from over 35 residents.

The Clerk confirmed that Tate Fencing will be installing the posts at Furzefield Avenue in May.

The Clerk reported that a full response has still not been received from Town & Country Housing Association regarding parking in Speldhurst.

12/180 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- i) ACRK Rural News Issue 114
- ii) Online Playgrounds 2012 Catalogue of playground equipment and spare parts
- iii) West Kent Mediation March 2012 Newsletter
- iv) Letter dated 13th March from Tunbridge Wells and District Samaritans thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £250
- v) Letter dated 14th March from the Valuation Office advising that the Parish Council Office has been added to the Rating list and is liable for the payment of rates. **Passed to the Finance Committee.**
- vi) Letter dated 14th March from South East Water regarding restrictions on water use
- vii) Letter dated 15th March from KALC with membership subscription details
- viii) Letter dated 15th March from KCC Director of Governance and Law with details of the Parish Council legal Scheme. **Given to Cllr Mrs Hull.**

- ix) Email dated 23rd March from KALC stating that they will be meeting with KCC to discuss the above Parish Council Legal Scheme and will update Parish Councils thereafter
- x) Email dated 21st with an invitation to the Election Ceremony and Reception for the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells on 23rd May – RSVP by 27th April
- xi) Email dated 21st March from ACRK giving advance notice of a seminar 'Greener futures for young people' on 20th June
- xii) Email dated 21st March from Tim Skinner re Harrison's Rocks Management Group – referred them to Groombridge Magazine and Withyham Parish Council
- xiii) Email dated 22nd March from Tunbridge Wells & District Citizens Advice Bureaux thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £1,000
- xiv) Letter dated 22nd March from DEFRA confirming that Speldhurst Parish Council's Expression of Interest (EOI) in the Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF) has been endorsed subject to conditions
- xv) Oast to Coast ACRK Spring 2012 publication – this will be available for all to read in the Office
- xvi) Flyer from TWBC advertising an Artist and Sellers Exhibition to be held on Saturday 13th October 2012 in connection with their Kent Heritage Trees Project
- xvii) Letter dated 26th March from SLCC regarding the East of England Conference on Wednesday 14th November at Colchester and the South Regional Conference on Wednesday 5th December at Southampton
- xviii) Email from Woodland Trust dated 26th March with details of forthcoming Activity Days in Hargate Forest Tunbridge Wells
- xix) Details of Summer Courses 2012 from University of Kent Tonbridge
- xx) Came & Company – Parish Council Insurance – Parish Matters Spring 2012 publication
- xxi) Letter dated 3rd April from Tunbridge Wells & District Citizens Advice Bureaux thanking us for their grant of £1,000 and advising that TWBC have only given them a one year service level agreement for 2012/2013
- xxii) Poster from KCC Libraries and Archives advertising poetry for World Book night (on Notice Boards)
- xxiii) Poster from KCC Make Kent Quicker – Want better Broadband
- xxiv) Email from TWBC requesting venues for family fun days in the summer – asking for details of fetes or any holiday programmes the Parish Council or others are doing
- xxv) Email from Langton Green Rural Society inviting all Cllrs to their AGM on Tuesday 8th May – 8pm with speaker Deborah Hargreaves (Hollonds Farm)
- xxvi) Email from St Mary's Church, Speldhurst advising that they are investigating the extent of remedial works required to retaining wall, steps and lych gate and requesting how to apply for a grant. Forms sent – **to be referred to Finance Committee**
- xxvii) ACRK News Issue 115
- xxviii) KALC Parish News April 2012
- xxix) KCC letter re map modification of WT82 (part)
- xxx) CPRE Countryside Voice Spring 2012 (available to read in the office)
- xxxi) CPRE booklet 'How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning - **The Clerk will ask for 20 more copies**
- xxxii) Email from Wealden District Council – consultation upon proposed modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document
- xxxiii) Email from East Sussex County Council re proposed submission waste and minerals plan – two week extension to period for representations
- xxxiv) Email from Sevenoaks District Council – planning consultations

12/181 DIARY DATES:

Tuesday 17th April – Planning meeting – Committee Room, LGVH

Thursday 19th April – Localism meeting at Brenchley

Monday 23rd April – Extraordinary Full Council meeting – Local Needs Housing – Langton Green Village Hall (Ellis Room)

Wednesday 25th April – Meeting with Solicitors re car park and pavilion – **10.30am**

Thursday 26th April – Local Clerks' lunch

Thursday 3rd May - **Election**

Thursday 3rd May – Governance meeting re Annual Audit – Parish Council Office – **10.00am**

Tuesday 8th May – LGRS AGM

Wednesday 9th May – Internal Auditor's visit – Parish Council Office – **10.00am**

Monday 14th May – **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** – Langton Green Village Hall Committee Room

12/182 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Woodward asked what the budget for Broadband for 2012/2013 is – the Clerk advised that it is £5,000.

Cllr Mrs Soyke wished to advise TWBC on the areas missed out in the delivery of the borough council "Local" Magazine, as Ashurst and Groombridge had been left out..

Cllr Owen advised that often at weekends the dog poo bag dispensers at LGRG appear to be empty. He also reported that Langton Green under 15 Football Team won the Crowborough and District Tournament on 15th April.

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the street light opposite The Hare in Langton Green is not working. **Clerk to report**

Cllr Parker reported that the Olympic Torch will be carried in an armoured car along the A264 between Holtye and Bishops Down, Tunbridge Wells.

Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there is a large timber post knocked down and lying in the road at the junction of Barrow Lane and Holmewood Ridge.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.15pm

CHAIRMAN