



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY 2014 at 7.30pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Craine, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker and Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Jukes and PCSO Lee Whitworth

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were five members of the public present

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys introduced PCSO Lee Whitworth who was off duty and had attended the meeting to introduce himself to Councillors. He explained his role in the community and offered to answer any questions. He said that the mobile telephone number in the newsletter was incorrect. Local village magazines would be notified. Cllr Langridge advised that there is speed watch training for volunteers on Thursday 27th February at LGVH run by Kent Police Maidstone and asked if he would be able to attend. The Chairman thanked him for attending.

14/040 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Pendleton and Cllr Woodward (both prior engagement). County Cllr Davies and Borough Cllr Stanyer

14/041 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: Cllr Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 Planning application by KCC for the expansion of Langton Green Primary School.

14/042 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Mrs Hull declared that she had been lobbied in respect of parking outside Speldhurst Post Office and the railings in Barden Road.

14/043 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **6th January 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/044 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Cllr Jukes said that he has spoken to Mr Reed from KCC Highways regarding the A264 Langton Road. He wanted KCC to improve their coverage of this area. Cllr Parker raised the matter of the traffic lights/pedestrian crossing on Pembury Road Tunbridge Wells and Cllr Jukes said that the most recent decision was to keep the lights.

14/045 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were five members of the public present. Two members of the public present spoke in respect of the planning application by KCC for LGPS expansion and made the following comments:

- Inconvenience to residents of Winstone Scott Avenue and Lampington Row and damage to the entrance and verges of Winstone Scott Avenue. **The clerk was requested to contact Town & Country on the resident's behalf to see if improvements can be made.**
- there should be a one-way system in the car park with another exit onto Speldhurst Road

A member of the public present spoke about the difficulties of parking in Speldhurst to go to the post office and shop and asked if the Chapel car park could be used for visitors to the shop. SPC has previously asked the Chapel and they were not willing to allow this. SPC has asked TWBC about time-limited parking outside the shop and is awaiting a response.

Mrs Marianne Buckley SPC representative on Langton Green Charitable Trust expressed the Trustees' concern about the teachers' car parking spaces in LGRG car park under the planning application proposals. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that there will be a maximum of 14 spaces and they will be at the far end of the overflow car park.

14/046 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- Cllr Owen reported that the next committee meeting is on 17th February and that the monies on deposit plus interest have been transferred from the Co-op Bank to HSBC.
- Cllr Owen reported that there are no budget virements.

14/047 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Hull

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in January</u>			
BT PLC	DD	18.00	Mobile
Sainsbury's	ALTO	12.85	Petrol
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
Roy Harvey	129	370.00	Maintenance LG Village sign
Alan Ashby	130	570.00	Hedge planting LGRG
Prestige Web Marketing	MT261	60.00	Annual hosting 2013-14
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT262	488.83	Dog Bags
Mr M Bullett	MT263	95.98	Speldhurst website hosting
Rymans	MT264	29.68	Stationery
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT265	22.50	Meeting rooms
Viking Direct	MT266	126.64	Stationery
Ms K Lawrence	MT267	15.00	Cleaner
Mr L Cooper	MT268	250.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT269	6.72	Goods
M Flemington	MT270	651.81	Salary
M Flemington	MT271	51.40	Expenses
HMRC	MT272	731.39	Tax & NI
C May	MT273	1,406.41	Salary
C May	MT274	16.20	Expenses
RIP Cleaning Services	MT275	216.00	Canine refuse collection
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT276	94.40	Office electricity
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT277	33.75	Meeting room hire
Premiere Digital	MT278	525.00	Newsletter
KCC (KCS)	DD	179.99	Rock Salt
Total payments		£5,941.70	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

14/048 PLANNING APPLICATION BY KCC: Cllr Mrs Hull referred to the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting which was held on 30th January, the minutes having been circulated, and she read the recommendation made by the planning committee to Full Council:

Recommend approval

Comments: Speldhurst Parish Council support this proposal in principle, provided planning consent is granted to tarmac the additional car parking areas, and subject to the following concerns:

- The proposed pedestrian access within the car parks is not specified therefore we are concerned about the safety of pedestrians and particularly children in and around the car park
- Queuing in Speldhurst Road at busy times when the car park entrance is congested may be an issue

Cllr Mrs Hull added that in her opinion the information on the project had come to the Council in an erratic manner and had been rushed. KCC has since provided a better site plan with a pedestrian pathway down the west side of car parks two and three.

Cllr Turner expressed his opposition to the project saying he thought there was not enough capacity and the entrance was unsuitable. The clerk suggested that KCC should have to review the situation regularly and make improvements and amendments if necessary. There was much discussion on the issue and Councillors made the following comments:

- Could a one-way system in car park be considered
- Could exit in bottom corner of car park be considered in conjunction with a one-way system
- Could existing entrance gates be widened
- Additional three disabled parking spaces should be removed as they are not necessary for DDA compliance
- Concern when weekend use of car park involves football, Village Hall users and school – there must be better communication of information between all parties involved.

The clerk was requested to contact KCC about the first three issues and request an extension to the application and inform KCC Cllr Davis. If no extension was possible and in the absence of a decision being made it was **RESOLVED** that an Extraordinary Full Council meeting will be called on either Tuesday 11th February or Wednesday 12th.

14/049 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the request by Langton Green Community Sports Association Ltd that the main area of the recreation ground be part of the lease agreement.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the signing of the lease by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Cllr Milner.

14/050 HIGHWAYS: Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that a committee meeting was held on 17th January and the minutes have been circulated. She reported that members of the committee have analysed the TWBC Ward Walks report and would like to try and pursue 20mph speed limits outside Langton Green and Speldhurst Schools. Cllr David Jukes advised speaking to Cllr Caroline Derrick. Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the barriers in Barden Road will be monitored for six months and that the major part of the feedback has been positive.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to spend £275 on a speed check survey in Lower Green Road (cost shared with Rusthall Parish Council who will also spend £275)
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to spend £100 on the purchase of 10 'deer warning signs'
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to spend £40 on the purchase of reflectors for the barriers in Barden Road

Reference was made to the information received from Cllr Stanyer regarding the exiting from Holmewood Ridge on to the A264 from a member of the public. It was noted that there was no significant accident record involving vehicles using this junction.

14/051 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID: Both landowners at the Green, Langton Green had been contacted and the papers have been submitted to TWBC for consideration. Shadwell Woods will be given consideration once the Green has been dealt with by TWBC.

14/052 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury and Langridge will co-ordinate the arrangements and a meeting will be held soon.

14/053 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: There was nothing to report.

14/054 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) **Governance** – In Cllr Pendleton's absence the Clerk reported that a committee meeting was held on 20th January and the minutes have been circulated
 - a) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Lone Worker Policy
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised grants policy
 - c) It was **RESOLVED** adopt the revised Freedom of Information policy
 - d) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Signs on Council Land policy
 - e) It was **RESOLVED** that there should be no change to the annual review of the Clerk's job description
 - f) It was **RESOLVED** that there should be no change to the annual review of the Assistant Clerk's job description
- ii) **Planning** – there was nothing to report.
- iii) **Amenities** – Cllr Milner reported that a committee meeting was held on 27th January and the minutes have been circulated. He reported that Cllr Owen has volunteered to be a representative on the newly formed Langton Green Community Sports Association Ltd
 - a) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the review of the Groundsman's contract to 32 hours per month averaged across a full year
 - b) It was **RESOLVED** to spend £225 on the Groundsman attending a two day chainsaw course
- iv) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that a committee meeting was held on 24th January and the minutes have been circulated. She reported that they are on the third consultation and that they support Edenbridge Town Council and the High Weald Parish Council's partnership. She attended GATCOM last week.
 - a) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Terms of Reference
- v) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that KCC will be doing some work in Shadwell Wood but it is still necessary for the landowner Dr Powell to do considerable tree clearance. **The Assistant Clerk to write to Dr Powell.** Ron Fisher has moved away but there are some other volunteers available for footpath work.
- vi) **Broadband** – there was nothing to report.
- vii) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.
- viii) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that a meeting was held on 29th January and the minutes have been circulated. Funding is required to hold open days and a grant application will be made to ACRK. A leader has yet to be appointed.
- ix) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that the next meeting is on 18th February.

14/055 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6TH JANUARY 2014: There were none.

14/056 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Email dated 28th January from Unity Trust Bank regarding new security software and new payment limits. This will be discussed at the Finance meeting on 17th February
2. Email dated 27th January from KALC regarding SE Coast Ambulance Service events in March
3. Email dated 24th January from TWBC regarding Green Infrastructure Plan and Noise & Vibration Supplementary Planning Documents – to be discussed at the Planning meeting on 10th February
4. Woodland Trust brochure – The Woods Today
5. Letter dated 8th January from LGCT advising that the cost of hiring rooms at the LGVH will be increased to £8ph for Ellis & Palmer Rooms, £9ph for main hall, £16ph for APA
6. Hospice in the Weald Newsletter
7. Letter dated 8th January - Another thank you from the Mayor re Toy Appeal
8. KALC Winter Newsletter

14/057 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Monday 3rd February 2014 – Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, Langton Green Village Hall**
2. Monday 10th Feb – Planning meeting – office
3. Tuesday 11th Feb – clerk to attend a Kent Safety Camera Partnership seminar in Ashford
4. Tuesday 11th Feb – Extraordinary Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, Langton Green Village Hall
5. Monday 17th Feb – Finance meeting – office
6. Tuesday 18th Feb - Environment WG meeting – office
7. Thursday 27th Feb – Speed Watch training – Palmer Room 10.30am
8. **Monday 3rd March 2014 – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Main hall**

14/058 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Hull suggested nominating the tree planting in Furzefield Avenue and/or the clearance of tree guards in Shadwell Woods for the competition being held by Kent Men of the Trees.

Cllr Parker advised that the Langton Green Rural Society quiz night is on 1st March.

Cllr Parker reported that the potholes in Major York's Road are very large and disruptive to traffic.

Cllr Langridge said that a litter patrol should be carried out soon involving parish councillors and volunteers and equipment from TWBC.

Cllr Langridge advised that he is discussing an initiative for the 2014 First World War anniversary with LGPS and All Saints' Church.

Name badges will be ordered for Cllr Craine and Cllr Mrs Horne.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.09pm

Chairman