



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 5th AUGUST 2013 at 7.30pm
IN SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Borough Cllr D Jukes (left 9pm), Mr P Blackwell, Mr G Lambert (left 9pm) and Mr F Cordell

13/144 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Pendleton, Woodward and Mrs Flemington – Assistant Clerk; County Cllr J Davies and Borough Cllr J Stanyer (all prior engagement)

13/145 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS: Cllrs Owen and Mrs Soyke declared a significant interest in agenda item 13/155 – they have children and grandchildren attending the school. Cllr Owen is also a local resident.

13/146 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllrs Mrs Hull and Podbury on agenda item 13/153 on aircraft noise

13/147 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **1st July 2013** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/148 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr Jukes said that TWBC was not receiving the promised new homes bonus from Central Government. The money has been placed in a LEP with other counties and now needs to be applied for. The Government has increased the allocation of business rates to the Borough Council but he was unsure if any benefit will be seen based on the experience of the new homes bonus. He announced that TWBC has however increased revenue by £1,100,000 over the last half year by selling off unused land and other assets with more revenue to come.

13/149 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no questions

13/150 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Hemming

- i) Cllr Hemming reported that a committee meeting was held on 8th July and the minutes have been circulated
- ii) He reported that the committee has recommended that an account be opened with HSBC in order to diversify the Council's banking arrangements. It was **RESOLVED** to open an account with HSBC with an initial balance of £25,000 which will be increased when the second tranche of the precept is received.

- iii) He said that the committee has recommended that a grant of £2,600 be made to the Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association towards a new kitchen and that there was £2,000 allocated in the budget. At this point Cllr Mrs Soyke declared a significant interest and took no part in the debate or the vote. It was **RESOLVED** to grant £2,600 to A&BSA.
- iv) It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs Alison Hillman as the new Internal Auditor on the recommendation of the committee.

13/151 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payment in July</u>			
Engrave It All	AO10	174.90	School awards
Engrave It All	AO11	116.64	Spare school awards
Lenco Motor Spares	AO12	19.96	Reflectors
DIY Shop	AO13	66.70	Weed killer
Amazon	AO14	50.91	Pressure sprayer
Westcotec	MT141	5,166.00	ISS sign and installation
EDF Energy	DD	183.72	Pavilion electricity
BT PLC	DD	16.81	Mobile
Total		£5,795.64	

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

ICO	DD	35.00	Data protection renewal
LGRS	116	100.00	Grant re Marchiennes visit
SKF Contractors Ltd	117	264.00	New ISS pole
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	MT142	47.80	Reference books
M R Lawrence	MT143	230.00	Mowing and strimming
Craigdene Ltd	MT144	168.00	Annual playground inspection
Premiere Digital	MT145	525.00	Newsletter
Premiere Digital	MT146	264.00	Parish plan expenditure
Commercial Services Trading	MT147	1,381.78	Grounds contract LG 6 months
Commercial Services Trading	MT148	652.37	Grounds contract Gr 6 months
Came & Co	MT149	25.00	Add Ins re ISS
Viking Direct	MT150	116.33	Stationery
St Mary's Church	MT151	500.00	Grant – graveyard maintenance
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT152	57.50	Meeting room hire
LGCT	MT153	52.50	Meeting room hire
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT154	15.00	Meeting room hire
Miss K Lawrence	MT155	15.00	Cleaner
Mr L Cooper	MT156	375.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT157	14.50	Maintenance expenses
HMRC	MT158	774.69	NI & Tax
M Flemington	MT159	674.51	Salary
M Flemington	MT160	46.90	Expenses
C May	MT161	1,460.81	Salary
C May	MT162	25.20	Expenses
Unity Trust Alto	Top up	530.00	Top up

SLCC Enterprises Ltd	MT163	35.50	Reference book
RIP Cleaning Services	MT164	172.80	Canine refuse
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT165	113.51	Posts and cement
RBS Software Solutions	MT166	128.40	RBS Alpha software maintenance
N Davies	MT167	40.00	Welding on container
TWBC	DD	54.00	Non-domestic rates

Total payments **£8,895.10**

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

13/152 HIGHWAYS:

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that a committee meeting was held on 5th July and the minutes have been circulated. She reported that there were two serious accidents during the month both in Langton Green on the A264. She said that the plan detailing proposed signage for the improvements to Barden Road had arrived by email that day and a site visit would be arranged to discuss them. The standard letter of response to highway enquiries had been included in Councillors' papers and any suggestions or amendments should be sent to the clerk.

13/153 GATWICK: Cllr Mrs Soyke had circulated a report on the meeting hosted by Greg Clark MP at LGVH on 18th July. She thought that complaints about noise, especially at night, should be directed to Matthew Balfour KCC representative.

There was a discussion on how the subject should be progressed and it was **RESOLVED** to establish a working group that will report to Full Council. The group will comprise of Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Hull and Langridge and Cllrs Mrs Hull and Langridge will compose a letter to Greg Clark MP to address the questions that were not answered at the meeting.

13/154 LANGTON GREEN SPORTS CLUB: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had prepared notes ahead of the meeting which explained why the solicitor's fees were in excess of the budget; details of the leases clarifying differences and a report on the history of the pavilion and the next steps necessary. Mr Guy Lambert from Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) gave an articulate presentation of how the club hoped to deal with funding and why tenure was necessary. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys explained the under-lease and that the pavilion would be owned and managed by the Council once the building was completed. There were a number of questions from Councillors about the solicitor's fees and also why the Council would then be responsible for the costs associated with the management of the new pavilion. Cllr Turner thought that the club should still pay rental of £100pa in the first ten years, £200 pa for the second ten years and £300pa for the last ten years. This was considered by Council and rejected by 10-1.

- i) It was **RESOLVED** to pay the fees estimated by solicitor, Donaldson West which would be in the region of £2,250.00
- ii) It was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote that the leases, as amended, be sent to LGSC's solicitor so that issue can progress

13/155 LANGTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys updated Councillors on a meeting held that morning with KCC (Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Langridge and the clerk also attended). She said that KCC has decided that the expansion of the primary school will go ahead therefore to debate the issue ahead of the planning application was not useful. Should SPC not approve the proposed use of the LGRG then KCC would have to find another way of reducing the impact of the highways issues.

She explained that there was a delay in the expansion because great crested newts had been found on site and it will be next March before new classrooms can be built. She said that KCC would like to use the LGRG to build a new path that would improve access to a new entrance at the opposite corner of where the present entrance is now. The old entrance would then be closed to pupils and parents. This would also include widening some of the footpath from the car park but not all of it and KCC hoped that this would discourage parents from using

Lampington Row. KCC would also fund an upgrade to the first extension car park to coloured tarmac and improve security on the second extension car park thus allowing for it to remain open on a full time basis.

There was much discussion on the issue and concern was noted at the failure of KCC to consult with the SPC at the earlier stages of the process. It was **RESOLVED** that

- KCC be allowed to construct a 1.8m path to the new school access gate however it was considered that the path should be widened all the way to the entrance of the LGRG to encourage more parents to walk.
- A turning circle was not needed and the four parking spaces remain
- The first extension car park be laid to coloured tarmac
- A solution needs to be found to the proposed use of the farthest extension car park which will deteriorate if left as it is when used daily and that KCC should consider the impact on Green Belt in its response.
- That pedestrian safety is considered and a path (for example) is created from the above area.
- That a safety assessment be carried out which will include a review of the use of the entrance which is not wide enough for two cars
- That future maintenance costs are considered in written agreements between the two parties.

The clerk will email the above decisions to KCC.

13/156 PARISH POLLS – LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL: It was **RESOLVED** to support NALC's proposal to increase the number of parishioners required to trigger a Parish Poll. **The clerk will complete the survey on behalf of the Council.**

13/157 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported on the presentations of the annual awards to pupils at the two primary schools. She advised that a scheduled meeting with the headmistress of LGPS had been cancelled at short notice and that another meeting was to be re-scheduled in September.

13/158 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a Governance meeting was held on 3rd July and copies of the draft minutes had been circulated. A new Media policy was proposed and Cllr Owen said he had some suggestions which he would submit to the clerk. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy subject to Cllr Owen's amendments
- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that a Planning Committee meeting was held on 16th July and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Langridge said that the number of planning applications has probably doubled from this time last year.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that a Committee meeting will be held on 19th August. He gave a short update on some of the issues and Cllr Parker advised that the recent water works was causing parking problems at The Hare junction at weekends. **The clerk was asked to see if "no parking" cones could be placed opposite The Hare.** The clerk confirmed his report that drugs had been found stored under the container and these had been disposed of and the Police informed.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported that a tree had come down in Shadwell Woods and he was trying to contact the owner to remove it.
- v) Broadband – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to the report already distributed to Councillors.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull said there was nothing to report
- vii) Parish Plan – Cllr Turner reported that at the last meeting held on 31st July twelve members were present. A note of the meeting would be circulated soon.
- viii) Environment Working Group – Cllr Mrs Hull said that there was nothing to report.

13/159 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3rd JUNE 2013: There were no matters outstanding

13/160 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Letter dated 29th June from Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust advising of an increase in the Ashurst Village Hall hire charges from 1st September 2013 to £12/hour for regular hirers
2. Letter dated 2nd July from Greg Clark MP advising of the public open meeting about Gatwick airport noise on 18th July in LGVH

3. Email dated 4th July from KCC regarding the consultation on Kent's Children's Centres
4. Letter dated July 2013 from Royal Mail advising that all postal deliveries and collections will be made from the Vale Rise, Tonbridge delivery office from 29th July
5. Email dated 17th July from Came and Company regarding insurance issues during the summer – including playgrounds – circulated to Cllrs
6. ACRK Rural News Issue 130
7. Children's' Play Area Annual Inspection report dated 17th July (this will be discussed and reviewed at the next Amenities meeting)
8. Email dated 23 July from Chairman of LGCT advising that Ron Ellis is about to retire. An advertisement is to be placed in this month's edition of Langton Life
9. Email from John Byng Vice Chair of GACC suggesting individuals join GACC
10. Letter from CSU issuing "Hate Crime" posters
11. CSU News No.25
12. Email from Ann Barnes about Police Contact Points (PCP). The PCP for Speldhurst parish will be in Speldhurst Village Hall starting on Wednesday 7th August at 12noon
13. Email from KALC suggesting Councillors attend the PCPs to show that Councillors are working with the police
14. CPRE Countryside voice – Summer 2013 edition

13/161 DIARY DATES:

1. Tuesday 6th August – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Clerk meeting Tony Wood HSBC bank – 2pm
2. Monday 12th August – Planning Committee meeting – Office
3. Friday 16th August – Clerk meeting Trevor Miles, Crown Inn, Groombridge – 7.30pm
4. Monday 19th August – Amenities Committee meeting - Office
5. Wednesday 21st August – Governance Committee meeting – Office – 10am
6. Thursday 22nd August – TWBC Fun Day – LGRG
7. Wednesday 28th August – Burslem cleaning Speldhurst War Memorial
8. **Monday 2nd September – Full Council meeting – Speldhurst VH**

13/162 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: Cllr Langridge advised that the Langton museum was about to open. The clerk advised that all reference to the 1914-18 conflict should be referred to as the First World War and not WW1.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.02pm

Chairman