



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.00PM
IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Price, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Rowe, and Pate

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor James McInroy and Borough Councillor David Jukes

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were 2 members of the public present.

18/261 TO ENQUIRE IF ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING:
No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

18/262 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Round (prior engagement)
Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer also sent his apologies.

18/263 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

18/264 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

18/265 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **5th November 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
The Chairman announced that Cllr Mercieca had resigned from the Council with immediate effect and that he had thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Council. He said that because there was less than six months before the elections in May the Council did not have fill the vacancy. Cllr Mrs Lyle also recorded her thanks.

18/266 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: There were no reports from Borough Councillors.
County Councillor James McInroy said that a lot of work was going on concerning the budget, Brexit and commercial waste. He sent his apologies for the meeting in January.

18/267 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Alistair Nash wanted to bring to the Council's attention the planning application for 3 Knowle Close that wanted to demolish an existing bungalow and build 3 new dwellings on the plot. The Chairman said the Council was aware of the application and it was on the agenda for the next Planning Committee meeting which was to be held on Tuesday 11th December in the Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall when it would be assessed.

18/268 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting, there was a meeting scheduled for Monday 10th December in the Council Office.
- b) Budget virements – there were none.
- c) Interim payments since the Finance Committee Meeting: current account: £875.00 Mowing; £1,716.55 Annual CCTV maintenance contract; £322.43 transfer to Mastercard; £437.68 change to gateway; £28.00 refund of rental and £72.86 waste collection. Mastercard: £9.00 card fee; £39.33* New rake and maintenance; £12.19* petrol; £28.80 printing of pavilion plans; £11.97* stationery; £34.35 HiViz jacket for Groundsman and £13.00 Annual registration at Companies House.
- d) Payments made under delegated authority – are starred above*.
- e) Speldhurst Post Office and Community Shop: there being no further information regarding the matter the item was deferred.

18/269 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Pate.To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
BeSure	MT1448	248.11	Replace emergency module kit
CWCS	MT1449	11.99	Website hosting
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1450	216.00	Canine refuse
Kate Harman	MT1451	25.65	Expenses
Neil Barrington-Johnson	MT1452	102.15	Expenses
C May	MT1453	18.00	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1454	29.56	Expenses
Burslem	MT1460	4,264.36	War Memorial refurbishment
Mr L Cooper	MT1455	630.03	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1456	653.50	Salary
C May	MT1457	1,843.71	Salary
NEST Pension Scheme	MT1458	66.08	Pension payment
HMRC	MT1459	2,689.84	Tax NI Quarter
Total:		£10,798.98	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

18/270 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she, Cllr Pate and the Clerk had met with the Schemes Planning and Delivery Team on 23rd November to discuss future projects for the parish and how to implement them. She said it was a disappointing meeting because they do not have enough staff to give the support required and we were advised to use consultants.

The Clerk advised that the 20mph advisory signs had been installed for Langton Green but were not working. A complaint had been received from a resident saying the new signs spoilt the conservation area. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said he thought they were too far away and needed to be nearer the crossing area to be effective. The Clerk will investigate.

18/271 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Pavilion – Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the accounts should be in credit by the end of the financial year. She was looking for a councillor to join the team and help with co-ordinating the pavilion. The Chairman asked councillors to consider this request for the January meeting.
- b) Formal agreement between SPC and SPC Pavilion Ltd - Cllr Mrs Lyle has drafted a letter to our solicitors for the Clerk to action.

- c) Drainage proposal – Cllr Mrs Lyle met with Chris Allen, who was working on the grant application for the project. She thought the forms were daunting in their complexity. She asked whether the Council was aware of any archaeological remains buried on the site or whether the Council was aware of any services under the Recreation Ground. The answer to both questions was no.

There is a meeting on Friday 7th December of the working group, and she is waiting on news from the cricket club.

Cllr Mrs Soyke had joined the Community Sports Association on a visit to Hadlow College to view a recently drained field using similar methods to what was being proposed at LGRG. She said that it was not directly comparable because the field had previously been used to graze horses; however the pitch had been in place for two or three years, was currently being played on once a week with no cancellations occurring due to waterlogging, and was not particularly muddy even though it was raining when she viewed it. The drainage appeared to work well, although the condition of the grass was not great. The Hadlow groundsman was constrained by time and a budget of c £12,000. He used contractors and estimated that it would require £20,000pa to maintain to a good standard (using contractors). Councillors asked if there were more relevant examples of pitches to view, the consultant had advised to look at his website for further examples.

18/272 PARISH PLAN: there was nothing to report. A meeting will be held in January.

18/273 KALC COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME 2019: this item was deferred until January

18/274 MEETING DATES 2019 AND OFFICE HOURS: The dates were listed but there were still some issues to resolve regarding the venues. Ashurst VH has a regular booking on a Monday evening which precludes SPC holding meetings there. It was confirmed that the January meeting will be held on Monday 7th in the Palmer Room, LGVH at the normal time of 7.30pm.

The Clerk asked that the office be closed from December 24th and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. This was agreed.

18/275 TO CONSIDER THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT: The Chairman asked that this agenda item be deferred to the end of the meeting as TWBC has asked that it remain confidential.

18/276 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: There was nothing specific to report

18/277 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that a replacement would be sought for George Mercieca in due course. He said that organising the monthly checks was now under the Committee Chairman's jurisdiction. He said that the committee had agreed that to be more GDPR compliant, all councillors would be assigned an email address and Microsoft Office 365 Business Essentials with access to shared files on OneDrive. The Committee recommended that all councillors be supplied with a tablet which will keep all council business away from personal computers. There was some discussion about the merits of tablets and the financial impact of both proposals would be considered at the Finance Meeting on 10th December.
- Cllr Milner said that the committee had considered the office workload and recognised the need for an assistant, especially considering the Clerk's request to reduce his hours next year. **RESOLVED** that an additional member of staff be employed as an Administrative Assistant on 10 hours per week. Salary and other details to be agreed by The Governance Committee.
 - The changes to the Media, CCTV and Winter Weather policies were approved.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price spoke of the Scriventon Farm application which SPC objected to but has now had an appeal. She was concerned that, although the TWBC Planning Committee had objected, the case officer at TWBC had recommended approval and therefore it was likely to weaken their case and be passed. She mentioned her disappointment regarding the Brakinston application, which SPC had objected to but TWBC had approved. However, she and the Assistant Clerk had reviewed the applications since she was appointed Chairman and she was mostly encouraged that our comments were being listened to. She did say that some

decisions at Planning Meetings had to be deferred due to lack of information on the database. She also mentioned the rationale behind the TWBC decision to proceed with the compulsory purchase of land to provide more football pitches when SPC and Rusthall PC had both objected: it was due to selling off land elsewhere and that pitches in this particular area were required.

She said that Cllr Mrs Soyke had asked to step down from planning due to other commitments and that George Mercieca had now left and that both would be missed.

- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said she had spent some time working on and prioritising the tree survey.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there had been a meeting of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group (HWCAAG) which had concentrated on the Gatwick Draft Master Plan. The SPC response to this had been delegated to the Air Traffic Committee and he had prepared an initial draft response. A meeting of the committee is to be held to confirm the contents.
- e) **Environment Working Group (EWG)** – there was nothing to report
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Mrs Soyke spoke of a problem near the Ashurst Village Hall
- g) **KALC** – The Chairman had attended a meeting and had circulated a note with the main points.
- h) **Website Working Group (WWG)** – The company had at last produced a front page and a meeting will be held this week to finalise details. The Council is now on FaceBook and the Clerk asked that those councillors using the social media send him feedback on posts.

18/278 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5TH NOVEMBER 2018 – there were none

18/279 CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk mentioned the thank you letter received from Speldhurst Primary School regarding the recent grant. He said that KCC was consulting on Libraries and asked if this should go on the January agenda. It was agreed that it should.

18/280 DIARY DATES:

Friday 7th – Local Plan meeting at TWBC 12.30-2.30

Monday 10th – Finance Meeting

Tuesday 11th – Planning Meeting

Thursday 13th – Chairman Conference, East Malling - 9.30-4.30pm

Monday 7th Jan 2019 – Full Council Meeting – Palmer Room 7.30pm

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

18/281 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: Cllr Ellery mentioned a biodiversity offsetting scheme which will help the government meet targets to build 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s, but would also apply to commercial projects. He suggested the Council should consider responding to the consultation.

The public meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman