



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

**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground  
On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Woodliffe, Mrs Lyle, Turner and Mrs Podbury (7.55pm).

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

1. **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.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Price – illness.
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 be approved as a correct record .
6. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
  - a) Purchase of land from Town and Country, LGRG carpark – The Clerk had gone back to Town and Country advising them that SPC would only be interested in purchasing the small areas of land at the edge of the carpark and they had confirmed that they would let the parish council know if the situation changes.
  - b) The Administration Assistant had written articles for the local magazines regarding litter picking.
  - c) The Administration Assistant had also done articles for the local magazines regarding volunteers for minor footpath repair works and several offers of help had come forward. The list of volunteers and footpath adopters would be updated and a meeting was to be held with Cllr Milner to action.
  - d) Flooring under the gyrosipiral – The Assistant Clerk had placed an order with the installer who had confirmed it would be replaced in November.
  - e) Lawful Development Certificate for the Installation of plastic grid matting for extra parking next to the pavilion – the application form had been completed and would be submitted as soon as confirmation of payment was received from TWBC.

- f) Parking during largescale events – Cllr Pate had put Cllr Mrs Woodliffe in contact with Community Safety Unit staff for advice. A meeting was planned for January 2020 however this would be postponed due to the delays in the drainage work schedule.
- g) Patchwork repairs to the path along the Green at Langton Green – these had now been carried out satisfactorily and the contractor had been paid.
- h) Trees – The Assistant Clerk had instructed the Living Forest to go ahead with all the works recommended on the consultation up to a 2-year period. The works are scheduled for the first half of 2020.
- i) Draft Local Plan – The Assistant Clerk had submitted SPC's response as agreed by Full Council. The staff at TWBC had been particularly helpful with the submission process.

8. **Financial Review:** The finance sheets had been circulated and a note made of any queries which would be put to the Responsible Financial Officer. The budget setting meeting would be held the following week and the following comments were noted: Councillors support improvements to the CCTV system and a resulting increase in the budget to accommodate these. The cost of waste disposal may increase if a recycling contract is taken out for the pavilion and these costs could be shared with the Village Hall so that their hirers could also use the facilities. The pavilion would be moving to an online booking software system which may incur extra costs. The Assistant Clerk was asked to investigate future tree maintenance costs (up to 4 years).

9. **Parish Council Land:**

a. **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there was nothing to report.
- ii. Pavilion –
  - Cllrs Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Barrington Johnson and Turner had attended a working group meeting with LGCSA which had been useful for all concerned.
  - LGCSA had agreed to the traffic management plan.
  - It was felt important to raise the awareness of community activities which use the pavilion.
  - Changing the toilet tissue dispensers seemed to have helped to prevent the drains from blocking. It was agreed that the Clerk should hold off having a survey of the drains carried out for the time being and the situation would continue to be monitored weekly by the Groundsman.
- iii. Sports Clubs –
  - Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that due to the heavy rainfall during the Autumn, the seeding of the football pitch had regrettably been delayed until next year. It was anticipated the pitches could be used from August 2020 onwards. Councillors had asked LGCSA to display a notice advising residents of the delays.
  - The cricket club had requested to formally be included under the umbrella of LGCSA.
  - It was noted that SPC's insurance provider should be notified of the drainage works taking place.
- iv. Play Area –
  - Teenage play area – It was agreed that due to the high levels of currently committed expenditure on the playgrounds, an additional item of play equipment would be postponed and revisited in 2020.
  - Repairs to the flooring of the playground – **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee to pay £3,784.75 and not £2,342.75 as previously approved.
- v. Recreation ground
  - A request had been received for a dedication bench to be placed on the recreation ground. Councillors agreed to the installation of the bench on the following conditions:
    - a) SPC approves the bench design and position before it is purchased;

- b) SPC will not be responsible for the maintenance of the bench and should it fall into disrepair reserve the right to remove it;
- c) SPC are not responsible for the installation and securing of the bench to the ground – should this not be carried out effectively, SPC would not be held responsible. The groundsman could carry out the installation and securing of the bench at a cost of £150 payable to SPC.
- A request from the café proprietor had been made for steps leading from the pavilion down onto the recreation ground due to the steep slope which had been created by the recent groundworks. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that there would be a road-grade ramp leading down the slope to allow access for the cricket roller which could be used for pedestrians to access the recreation ground. A decision on whether steps may additionally be required would be postponed until once the area was back in use.
- A request from the café proprietor for picnic benches on the recreation ground had been received. Councillors considered the proposition a good idea however the difficulties of mowing around the benches would need to be considered. It was agreed to postpone the decision until the area is back in use but in the meantime the café proprietor would be asked to provide SPC with a proposal showing the number and type of benches and the desired locations.
- A request from a resident to metal detect on SPC land had been received. It was agreed that the request would be declined because SPC's land was not suitable as it does not contain any wood or wasteland and do not want to set a precedent. Additionally, the recreation ground had recently been excavated.

vi. Car park

- Pillars at entrance to LG carpark –The Assistant Clerk had obtained details of the coaches which use the carpark and contacted them however no responses had been received. She would contact Alan Ashby, the stonemason, and Ian Richards of Richards Fencing for advice, recommendations and prices to have metal rods installed in front of the stone pillars.
- Cllr Lyle had seen cars meeting at the far end of the LG carpark at night and it was noted this activity was a fairly common occurrence. The Assistant Clerk would ask Cllr Pate and the Police for advice.

b. **The Green at Langton Green –**

- i. A request from a resident of Stone Cottage to tarmac the frontage to their property was considered. It was **RESOLVED** to advise the resident that the frontage should remain in its existing state as it is in keeping with the visual amenity.
- ii. A resident had sent the parish council photographs of overflowing rubbish bins on the Green. The Assistant Clerk was to write to TWBC asking them to remove the bin for a trial period to see if it resolved the problem. It was considered residents empty the rubbish from their cars whilst parked.
- iii. An email from residents regarding excessive use of neighbouring driveways to manoeuvre cars was noted and it was hoped the issue had been resolved.

c. **The Green at Groombridge - Green Erosion:** Councillors considered different options to try and prevent the Green from eroding further. The Assistant Clerk was to chase Tate Fencing for a quotation for both 20cm high wooden posts and piling.

d. **Pocket Parks at Speldhurst –** The Government had released funds for grants towards pocket parks and it was considered whether this could be useful in Speldhurst. Cllr Rowe noted that the proposal needed to be submitted by the end of the year and it was therefore agreed it was not practical to apply.

e. **The Boundary –** A request for tree works had been received from a resident who lived near to the lake. The Assistant Clerk would obtain quotations.

f. **Signs on Council Land –** There was nothing to report.

g. **The Groundsman** – There was nothing to report.

10. **Trees:** An email had been received from a resident regarding overgrown trees on Speldhurst Hill which were now considered dangerous. The Assistant Clerk was to report the trees to KCC.

11. **Public Rights of Way:** Note Matters Arising regarding footpaths.

12. **Items for Information:** There were none.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.59pm am.

Chairman