



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 5th NOVEMBER 2012 at 7.00pm
IN THE MAIN HALL, ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys welcomed Chief Inspector Nicola Faulconbridge (Tunbridge Wells Police) and invited her to address the meeting.

Chief Inspector Faulconbridge introduced herself by saying that she started her police career in Tunbridge Wells and lives in the district.

She urged people not to be afraid to report things to the police as all locally reported information is looked at and sometimes something that may initially appear trivial may give the police valuable information.

She said that everyone should take all the practical steps they can to prevent being a victim of personal crime and that people should look after the vulnerable in their community in this respect.

She spoke and answered questions about road safety issues, Community Speed Watch, National Road Safety Week, traffic accident reporting, road works and education of schoolchildren, cyclists and joggers on road safety.

She also answered questions on the non-emergency 101 police telephone phone number, police uniforms and the public perception of the police.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys thanked Chief Inspector Faulconbridge on behalf of all those present for a very useful and informative talk and question and answer session and Chief Inspector Faulconbridge invited the Parish Council to contact her if there are any matters of concern.

The Parish Council business started at 8.10pm

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk
County Councillor John Davies

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr Chris May – Clerk (holiday) and Borough Councillor David Jukes

12/328 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS: Cllr Mrs Soyke – Item 12/333 iii) Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association grant request and Item 14. Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust

12/329 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Mrs Podbury – Item 12/339 Gatwick

12/330 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **1st October 2012**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record. The Minutes of the Open Meeting held on **8th October 2012**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

12/331 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: County Councillor John Davies reported that the KCC budget consultation is complete and a nil Council Tax increase is proposed. He reported that there is a public consultation on a size increase to two form entry every year at Langton Green Primary School. He confirmed that the highway work at Stone Cross will be going ahead on 12th November for three nights. He also advised that he has been made aware that Network Rail is extending the Ashurst Station car park without a planning application having been submitted. Speldhurst Parish Council Planning Committee is aware of this. Cllr Mrs Soyke added further information on the car parking issue – TWBC Planning department were frustrated that work had gone ahead without permission, but doubted that they would be able to force Network Rail to comply, as they had successfully carried out similar work elsewhere without planning permission. She hoped that this would not lead to car parking charges being introduced.

12/332 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public from Ashurst present at this stage of the meeting. He expressed concern at the continued flooding issues at Stone Ness on the A264. Cllr Mrs Podbury said the Highways Committee are in discussion with Kent Highway Services about this matter.

12/333 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a Committee meeting was held on 22nd October and the minutes have been circulated to all members.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had been one email decision in the last month; a donation of £100 was agreed to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for poppy wreaths for the four Churches in the Parish.
- iii) Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association grant request – Cllr Mrs Soyke left the room at the start of this agenda item and re-joined the meeting after the discussion and decision. The Finance Committee had recommended a grant of £8,000 following their meeting held on 22nd October. After discussion it was **AGREED** unanimously to award a grant of £8,000 to the Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association.
- iv) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the Finance Committee had agreed to leave the decision to Full Council as to whether the Precept for 2013-2014 should be between £125,000 and £130,000. After much discussion of the figures it was **AGREED** by a vote of 8 in favour and 5 against to adopt the precept figure of £125,000. It was accepted by the Council that this might limit its ability to consider large grant requests next year.

12/334 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Pendleton

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Additional Payments in October not listed</u>			
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
EDF Energy	DD	160.81	Pavilion Electricity
RIP Cleaning Services	033	172.80	September dog bins
Speldhurst & Langton Scouts	034	3,000.00	Grant
Coop Fixed Rate Deposit	Investment	25,000.00	Investment
Sainsbury's	ALT1	44.22	Refreshments Open Eve
Lenco Motor Spares	ALT2	4.99	Reflectors
EB Positive Planning	ALT3	35.70	Tickets to CPRE event

Payments in November

KALC	035	288.00	Localism Conference
Direct Technical Services	036	22.03	Groombridge street light
Royal British Legion	037	125.00	Poppy Wreaths
Miss K Lawrence	038	15.00	Cleaner
HMRC	039	699.68	Tax & NI
M R Lawrence	040	925.00	Mowing, strimming, hedges
RIP Cleaning Services	041	172.80	Dog bin emptying
Cirrologic	MT33	106.92	Broadband
Greenbarnes Ltd	MT34	1,564.05	Notice Board
Premiere Digital	MT35	270.00	Sign Boards
Mr L Cooper	MT36	120.00	Groundsman
C May	MT37	1,355.57	Salary
C May	MT38	82.79	Expenses
M Flemington	MT39	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	MT40	53.65	Expenses
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT41	106.56	LGRG Bollards
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	53.00	Non-Domestic Rates
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	2,539.03	Parish Election
KCC (KCS)	DD	59.99	Wheelbarrow

Total payments **£9,182.48**

12/335 HIGHWAYS REPORT: Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that a Committee meeting was held on 12th October and the minutes had been circulated to all members. She advised County Councillor John Davies of the concerns regarding overcrowding and children standing on school buses and he said he would look into the matter. She advised that there has been a report in the Courier that an appeal for a crossing of the A264 in Langton Green has been turned down by Kent Highway Services.

12/336 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that there was nothing further to report at present.

12/337 HOSPICE IN THE WEALD: A request had been received for a grant of £1,000. After discussion it was **AGREED** by a vote of 12 in favour and 1 against that a grant of £750 would be awarded.

12/338 GOVERNANCE: Cllr Pendleton reported that a Committee meeting was held on 15th October and the minutes have been circulated to all members.

- i) It was **AGREED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference.
- ii) It was **AGREED** to adopt the snow policy. The policy will be put on the environment page of the website.
- iii) The revised job description and pay structure for the Groundsman were discussed and **AGREED** in principle, subject to legal advice.

12/339 GATWICK: Cllr Mrs Podbury expressed concern at the plans for the proposed second runway and its impact. **Cllr Pendleton will provide information on the lobbying group to the Clerk.**

12/340 ASHURST MCDERMOTT HALL TRUST: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that Cllr Mrs Soyke is willing to stand for re-nomination as the Parish Council's representative for another year. This was **AGREED**.

12/341 LANGTON GREEN RURAL SOCIETY: It was **AGREED** to allow the Langton Green Rural Society to place their Christmas tree on Council land.

12/342 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she has had a request from TWBC Local Democracy Engagement to speak at one of the Full Council meetings in early 2013 about the Parish

Charter. **Cllr Mrs Jeffreys will advise Nick Peeters TWBC Democratic Services Officer of the dates of the meetings in January – April 2013.** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she had attended the AGM of Langton Green Charitable Trust in October.

12/343 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that an increasing number of applications are being dealt with and that where possible the whole Committee visit application sites prior to discussion at the Committee meeting.
- ii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that the three replacement trees for land by the container at LGRG are on order from Speldhurst Nurseries and that a strimmer is to be purchased.
- iii) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported that a walker recently slipped onto Stockland Green Road from the footpath and that the volunteers have improved this area. In addition KCC are giving consideration to a hand rail in this location.
- iv) Broadband – Cllr Woodward reported that TWBC are making their final DEFRA bid in November.
- v) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that she is attending the Area Committee meeting on 14th November. She will raise overcrowding on school buses, highways and speeding.
- vi) Neighbourhood Planning Working Group – Cllr Turner reported that a Working Group meeting is to be held on 22nd November. The four Councillor members (and possibly one member of the public) are attending a training course organised by CPRE.
- vii) Environment Working Group – Cllr Mrs Hull advised that there was nothing to report.

12/344 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1st OCTOBER 2012: There were none.

12/345 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit Newsletter – September Issue
2. ACRK Rural News Issue 122
3. ACRK Oast to Coast Autumn 2012 Magazine
4. Applause live arts at local venues September to December 2012 schedules
5. Notification of Tunbridge Wells and District Citizens Advice Bureaux AGM on 8th November
6. KALC Annual Report 2011/2012
7. KALC Parish News Issue 364 October 2012
8. Came & Company Parish Matters Autumn 2012
9. Email dated 11th October regarding consultation on main modification to East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Plan
10. Letter dated 17th October 2012 from KALC with details of the AGM on Saturday 17th November at Ditton Community Centre
11. Letter dated 17th October from Peggy Bradley of Cyclists Rest, Stonewall Park Road regarding leaves on the pavement and road. **Cllr Langridge will contact her.**
12. Kent County Council Superfast Broadband Update October 2012
13. Letter dated October 2012 from Kent High Weald Partnership enclosing Weald Wise Autumn/Winter 2012, Events Guide September 2012 – March 2013 and Trees to Treasure project
14. Unity Bank October 2012 News Update
15. Email dated 1st November from The Rural Services Network advising of their AGM on 19th November
16. Email dated 5th November from Dan Docker TWBC Tree Officer with details of Ash die-back disease
17. CPRE Countryside Voice Winter 2012 publication

12/346 DIARY DATES:

1. Wednesday 14th November – KALC Tunbridge Wells Area Committee Meeting
2. Saturday 17th November – KALC AGM – Ditton Community Centre
3. Monday 19th November – Amenities Committee Meeting – Parish Council Office
4. Wednesday 21st November – Internal Audit – Parish Council Office – **10am**

5. Thursday 22nd November – Neighbourhood Planning Working Group Meeting – Parish Council Office
6. Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th November – Speldhurst Tree Planting – Furzefield Avenue and Southfields
7. Tuesday 27th November – Parish Chairmen’s Meeting – Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – **6pm**
8. Tuesday 27th November – Planning Committee Meeting – Parish Council Office
9. Monday 3rd December – **Full Council Meeting** – Langton Green Village Hall, Committee Room – **7pm**

12/347 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

It was **AGREED** that the Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for 19th November is not required and that an Amenities Committee Meeting will now be held on that date.

Cllr Mrs Soyke asked for comments on the new traffic lights in Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Cllr Pendleton reported that the Crown Inn at Groombridge is under new management.

The Assistant Clerk reported that Tate Fencing replaced the damaged post outside the entrance to Langton Green Village Hall but that unfortunately it has been hit by another car. It is slightly damaged at the base but still standing.

The Assistant Clerk will circulate TWBC information on Ash die-back disease and put it on the website.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.00pm

CHAIRMAN