



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

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 7th JUNE 2010 at 7.30pm
IN THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Hull, Mrs Waters, Brown, Ellis, Langridge, Milner, Parker, Pendleton and Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chris May, Clerk; Mrs M Flemington, Assistant Clerk

County Councillor John Davies (left the meeting at 8.40pm)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Flemington to her first Full Council meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mrs Paulson-Ellis (holiday)

10/076 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

Personal & Prejudicial – Cllr Mrs Soyke – Ashurst Village Common Land (1825-3) and Dog bins in Ashurst (10/065). The clerk - approval of his overtime (10/081i)

10/077 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: No declarations were received

10/078 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **10th May 2010**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed with the following exceptions; Cllr Brown noted from the new Councillor's committee list that he did not seem to be a full member of the Parish Vision Committee and he would like to be – **Clerk to amend**; Cllr Brown referred to minute reference 10/071iv) Footpath report and the increased expenditure for the new container and questioned the increase in budget – he said that any increase over and above the budget should come from the contingency. This was **AGREED** and the **clerk would amend** accordingly.

10/079 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – The meeting was adjourned. Cllr Davies had been on a walk in the Parish and reported two problems on his journey that required attention. There was no stile on the walk near Groombridge Place and nails sticking out on a stile near the Groombridge Farm Shop.

10/080 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - Report by Cllr Jeffreys

- i) The Standing Orders required an amendment to reflect that there were now two employees. The Standing Orders had been circulated to all Members and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the amendment.
- ii) The Terms of Reference for the Internal Audit had been previously circulated to all Members and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve them.
- iii) The Annual Return had been completed. The Internal Auditor had completed his part and the Governance Committee was satisfied that the Return could be signed. A copy of the return had been previously circulated to all Members and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the document.

Members. It was suggested that the nearest residents be consulted and that for a trial period semi-permanent bollards be installed (similar to Speldhurst Hill) to see what the result would be.

- iii) The clerk had hoped for further updates but Steven Noad was only just back from vacation.

10/008 PARISH WEBSITE – Cllr Pendleton said that the working party should be able to view the start of the new website soon. When it is available a meeting will be held.

1825-3 ASHURST VILLAGE PLAY AREA – Nothing further had been resolved. A decision would be made at the next meeting regarding the funds held in the budget for this project.

2249 PARISH OFFICE – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked Councillors if they were ready to make a decision to go forward on this project. There was a lengthy discussion and it was decided, on a vote of 6-5, that a document should be drawn up so that Councillors have all the information summarised before making a commitment on spending such a considerable amount of money. It was agreed that a decision would be made at next month's meeting.

10/065 DOG BINS IN ASHURST – There was a delay in receiving reports on the Parish Vision survey from ACRK and consequently there was nothing further to report.

10/084 SPELDHURST NOTICE BOARD – The Village Hall Standing Committee had met and advised that they did not want the new notice board placed in front of the toilet windows. This was discussed and it was decided to replace the notice board at Groombridge.

10/085 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had previously circulated her report which included her meeting with Mrs Gould, reference to further letters regarding the precept and her speech to the Speldhurst Mother Union. It also detailed her attendance at the Mayor's installation meeting and a day at Cricket week.

10/086 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i) Planning – Cllr Mrs Podbury referred Members to the Minutes and had nothing further to add to them. She noted that Quinces had again been refused.
- ii) Parish Vision – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the whole episode of ACRK analysing the questionnaires had been a dismal episode. It had made the Parish Vision project look unprofessional and she was concerned about the loss of volunteers and the loss of momentum of the project. **It was decided that an official letter of complaint would be sent to the Chief Executive from the Chairman.**
- iii) Recreation Ground – Cllr Ellis said there had been an attempt to break two windows on the pavilion door which had been replaced at a cost of £138. A meeting would be held soon to discuss rental charges for the coming season. An inspection of a tree that borders the land owned by Ashurst Place is to be arranged and advice sought on its health and future action.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner had written a detailed report for Council which had been circulated to Members. He was still investigating if there was a need for a formal Decision Notice from TWBC before proceeding with the siting of the container. If it were necessary then a fee of £167.50 would be required to be paid.
- v) KALC - There was nothing to report. The next meeting was on June 9th.
- vi) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Wheeler said that a walkabout in Langton Green was scheduled for 18th June and a meeting would be held afterwards. Cllr Hull had read through an email circulated by the clerk from TWBC entitled Strategic Planning and Development Controls – Portfolio Holder Non Key Decisions and requested that the Council apply for a pack so that details of TWBC LNH policy can be seen in more detail.

10/087 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 10th May 2010

10/067 It was noted that PCSO Nuttall, who was recommended by the Council for the "Local Hero" award had not made the final three.

10/075 The safety issue regarding the bench outside the Church in Speldhurst was still outstanding.

10/088 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i) Letter from Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee – Chairman Denis Gibbs dated 29th May thanking the Parish Council for the grant.
- ii) KCC letter re KCC Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate: Statement of Community Involvement: Draft for consultation – KCC is preparing a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – comments can be made on line. Anyone wanting to follow this up please let me know.
- iii) TWBC Changes to In-House Pest Control Service – from 2nd August TWBC will only treat rats or mice if you are on benefits.
- iv) Letter from Sutcliffe Play (another play area company) - they are now employee owned.
- v) Local FWAG newsletter

- vi) ACRK letter re membership
- vii) Letter from Mark Rees addressed to Cllr Mrs Paulson-Ellis regarding bus services via Rusthall – this would be **considered by the Parish Vision committee** with the comments on buses.
- viii) Quality bus shelters from Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd
- ix) Thank you from Village House Nursery re use of playing fields on May 1st
- x) Suffolk County Council re outdoor furniture and play equipment catalogue
- xi) Email from Mrs Hannah Glenville who is hiring the Langton Green hall on 7th August and would like to use some space on the recreation ground behind the hall for a bouncy castle and some outdoor games. It was **RESOLVED** that the Recreation Ground could be used with the proviso that she understands that she is responsible for all liability insurance and that it does not interfere with other organised sport - **clerk to check and respond.**
- xii) Email from Roger Mallett thanking the Parish Council for agreeing to pay the Planning Application fees and for underwriting the shortfall on the project up to £15,000
- xiii) Note from a Mr S Jeffreys asking if the Parish Council could take a lead in trying to get a better broadband service for the Parish
- xiv) Email from Linda Rennie complaining about the precept – **clerk to reply.**
- xv) Email from Jonathan Hughes complaining about the precept – **clerk to reply**
- xvi) Email from Linda Meades following on from Speldhurst News letter re precept – **clerk to reply.**
- xvii) Open Spaces Society AGM Tuesday 6th July in London; Annual Report and Accounts 2009; Summer Magazine
- xviii) Email from David Jukes/Julian Stanyer re YMCA youth project – is it suitable for Speldhurst? To be **considered by the Parish Vision committee**
- xix) Commonwork show at Bore Place, Edenbridge 11am-5pm “Iron age to carbon age”
- xx) KCC Road closure notices for Speldhurst from 25th July to 6th December (gas)

10/089 DIARY DATES

- i) Wednesday 9th June clerk attending WWYC course in Swanley (part 1)
- ii) Wednesday 9th June - KALC TW Area Committee meeting at Paddock Wood 7.30pm
- iii) Thursday 10th June clerk attending a lunch for Kent clerks
- iv) Monday 14th – 21st Chairman holiday
- v) Friday 18th June LNH Committee meeting LGVH 9.30am – Langton Green walk
- vi) Sat 19th June KALC Progressive Council Course at Lenham (Cllr Milner to attend)
- vii) Saturday 26th June – Speldhurst Fete
- viii) Tuesday 29th June – Parish Council Chairmen’s meeting
- ix) Wednesday 30th June – Rusthall meeting at United Reform Church regarding progress to become a Parish Council (Chairman to attend)
- x) Thursday 1st July – WWYC (part 2)
- xi) Saturday 3rd July – Langton Green Fete
- xii) **Monday 5th July – Full Council meeting Speldhurst Village Hall**

10/090 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had received a letter from David Crundwell thanking the Parish Council for the cards that were sent and the flowers that were sent to the funeral of his son. Horsmonden Parish Council would still like to meet with PV to discuss a Village Plan. Cllr Waters advised that the graffiti was still on the gates on Etherington Hill. The clerk would chase up. Vans parked on Speldhurst Hill engaged in building work were causing tailbacks and were dangerous. There are a number of overgrown hedges that are making the use of some pavements very difficult, especially the one opposite Went Farm. **Cllr Milner would draft a letter** for the clerk to use and he would **contact the owner** accordingly. Cllr Langridge advised that travellers had illegally accessed Hollonds Farm but had been moved on due to Police action after three days.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.06pm

CHAIRMAN