



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

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2014 at 7.30pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: KCC Cllr Davies, Mr Neil KCC Project Manager, Ms Lees Head Teacher LGPS, Mr Gamble Head of School Governors and Mrs Lyle School Governor

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

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

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, on behalf of the Council, sent best wishes to Cllr Craine and his family

14/059 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Pendleton (prior engagement), Cllr Craine (illness)

14/060 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: Cllr Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 Planning application by KCC for the expansion of Langton Green Primary School – he has a child attending the school, his wife works at the school and he is a resident of Lampington Row. Cllr Mrs Soyke and Cllr Woodward declared that they both have grandchildren attending the school.

14/061 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There was none

14/062 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Ms Lees said that the school was no longer big enough to cater for the village, as on average there are 50 children for 30 places. The school has attained an OFSTED rating of outstanding in all areas and wants to offer a good education to all children in the village. She said that they now have a person to operate the crossing patrol and have a robust travel plan in place which Highways will refine. The school is constantly looking for ways to reduce driving and said that parents have to take responsibility when using the car park.

Councillors asked several questions about the travel plan, whether there was a plan to curtail parents using the adjacent streets, and whether there were any alternative plans if the crossing patrol man was ill. It was also noted that there was mismatch between the pay offered by KCC for the crossing patrol man, and the time he will actually have to be on duty. Ms Lees agreed that this would require further negotiation

Mr Neil said there were two elements to the plan; education and planning. As part of the planning process there had been a traffic impact assessment which had been appraised by Highways who had approved the plan. He said that there will always be drivers and if SPC allows the use of the car parks it will reduce the traffic impact. He suggested that the travel plan be reviewed annually and said the total cost for the ground works for the car parks

and footpaths is estimated to be £160,000 because of drainage and root mitigation. He said that the draft Heads of Terms for the 25 year lease will have reviews built in to ensure that the operation is assessed regularly.

Councillors asked a number of questions and expressed some concerns. These included that the new Head Teacher might not be focussed on the parking problem; concern at the narrowness of the access point in to the car park and possible problems this would cause in Speldhurst Road and whether an alternative access to increase traffic flow had been considered.

Mr Neil replied that it was not possible at this stage to consider an alternative access, as apart from the cost involved there were MGB and AONB and splay lines issues. Ms Lees said that due to school activities not all collections were at the same time.

Mr Gamble said the Governors support the ambition of the school to serve all the children of Langton Green and reiterated that the new Head Teacher will have to deal with alleviating parking. He said that they will continue to work on parents to walk when possible.

Mr Milne said that the expansion would bring an additional 100 cars and that the residents will bear the brunt of these plans.

Mrs Lyle spoke as a parent and emphasised the need for expansion. She said that six of her friends, who live in Langton Green, were unable to get their children into the school. The community has grown and more places are needed. Admission of siblings would help keep car numbers down. She asked that the plan be approved and an alternative exit investigated in 3-4 years when there was evidence of need.

14/063 CONSIDERATION OF THE PLANNING APPLICATION BY KCC TO EXPAND THE LANGTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND IMPROVE LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND FACILITIES: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys thanked everyone for their input and asked councillors for their views.

Councillors accepted there was demographic pressure for the expansion of the school and that there were no ideal solutions. All said that there must be regular reviews written in to agreement with KCC and the development of the travel plan should be a priority. There were serious concerns about the access and councillors agreed that its use should be reviewed regularly.

The Council then voted and it was **RESOLVED** by 10 votes with one abstention to recommend approval of the application with the comments that Speldhurst Parish Council supports this proposal in principle, provided planning consent is granted to tarmac the additional car parking areas and subject to the following further comment:

- SPC wishes to be involved with the school in the development, maintenance and ongoing revision of the travel plan

14/064 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: There were none

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman