



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 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 10.00am**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Turner and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk; Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **To receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Owen (holiday), Cllr Parker (personal) and Cllr Woodward (prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared a significant interest; one of the sites referred to in the TWBC land asset disposal programme **(11.)** is adjacent to her residence
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none
4. **The Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012** were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received two visits from residents concerned about the felling of the Beech tree on The Green.

The Clerk reported that fly-tipping is an increasing problem both at LGRG and within the Parish. **The Clerk will report the problem to Gary Stevenson at TWBC and copy correspondence to the Borough Councillors. An article will be prepared for inclusion in the April village magazines.** If this is ineffective then other methods would be considered including signage and CCTV.

The Clerk reported that he has received an enquiry from 'The Rude Mechanicals' Community Theatre Company to use the extension car park at LGRG one Thursday evening in late June 2013 for an outdoor theatre event. After discussion it was **AGREED** that this can be dealt with by email decision.
6. **Public Open Session**

Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.

There were no members of the public present.
7. **Financial Review**

The Clerk circulated and reviewed the figures.

## 8. Langton Green War Memorial

- i. The Clerk reported that a quotation of £838 has been received for cleaning and re-pointing the War Memorial from Burslem Stonemasons. The same quotation has been received in respect of Speldhurst War Memorial. After discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend to Full Council that Burslem carry out cleaning and re-pointing of Langton Green War Memorial and to reconsider Speldhurst War Memorial thereafter.

## 9. Next Phase of Enhancement on The Green

- i. Extension of footpath – the Clerk reported that TWBC may give a contribution from their 2013/2014 funds but that there may be complications with South East Water installing meters in this location. **The Clerk to ascertain from South East Water their timescale for installing the meters and to confirm that TWBC will make a contribution.**
- ii. Planting of a tree – after discussion it was **AGREED** to have a site visit to decide on the location for the tree, to agree the species with consideration being given to a 'Christmas tree' and to put an article in the next edition of Langton Life with the rationale for replanting.

## 10. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Pavilion - the Clerk reported that the Sports Club's planning application is being considered by TWBC. It is anticipated that LGSC will attend the Annual Parish Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the Groundsman is carrying out and reporting on his weekly playground inspections. He has reported that the wet-pour surfacing around the 4 spring rocker has subsided and the 2 cradle swings have bent frames. **The Clerk is awaiting a quotation from Husson for the necessary repairs.**
- iii. Rubbish being left on LGRG is being monitored by the Groundsman.
- iv. Car parks – the Clerk reported that the RSPB are not able to supply suitable large logs for securing the extension car park from Broadwater Warren Nature Reserve and the costs including haulage of obtaining them elsewhere are prohibitive. After discussion it was **AGREED** to consider the costs and suitability of installing posts, planting a hedge or contacting Harbour Demolition for availability of suitable materials. **The Clerk to investigate further.**
- v. The Clerk reported that the Groundsman is concerned at putting the new Diamond Jubilee bench in the location of the old bench as there is a large dip which holds water. After discussion it was **AGREED** to have a site visit and agree on a suitable location.

## 11. Maintenance work in the Parish

The Clerk reported that considerable research has been carried out into local contractors who might tender for the maintenance contract for the Parish. Unfortunately none considered fulfilled the criteria of being both suitable for the work and sufficiently local. After discussion it was **AGREED** to use A1 Garden Services for another year and amend the tender specification so that the grass at the Pocket Park is cut less regularly for a trial period of a year (with the exception of the edges by the path which will still be cut fortnightly) and ask for costings from A1 Garden Services. An article would be prepared for the Speldhurst News informing residents of this decision. **The Clerk will also obtain quotations from A1 Garden Services and Kent County Services for maintenance of the land at The Boundary that is to be taken on from TWBC and contact Alan Ford Environment Working Group member for advice on natural management of grass and wild flowers in respect of the Pocket Park and land at The Boundary.**

## 12. Trees in the Parish

- i. The Clerk reported that the next phase of work to be carried out on the trees at LGRG and the Pocket Park in accordance with the 2012 tree surveys will be carried out by Treework and start on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- ii. Cllr Mrs Hull and the Assistant Clerk reported that the tree planting in Furzeffield Avenue and Southfields, Speldhurst took place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and that the feedback has been very positive. The Assistant Clerk reported that all the contributions have been collected with the exception of two which are being chased up. One of the trees planted in Furzeffield Avenue has some minor damage to its trunk which has been reported to the supplier Barcham Trees and will be monitored.

## 13. Footpaths

Cllr Milner reported that work has recently been carried out by KCC to put road planings on WT67 off Stockland Green Road. Unfortunately KCC did not contact the owner of part of this footpath in advance and he has written a letter of complaint to KCC. Resurfacing of the footpath across 18 acre field, Speldhurst will be considered in conjunction with the landowner.

Cllr Milner reported that the footpath volunteers will be repairing a stile at Stone Cross, inspecting a defective bridge (but it may be in Penshurst Parish) and repairing and reinstalling the footpath walkers map outside St Mary's Church, Speldhurst.

Cllr Milner, Cllr Mrs Soyke and the Clerk are attending a meeting with KCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer Sonia Coventry at Stone Cross on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10am, to inspect the stretch of public footpath (in effect pavement) recently laid by KCC alongside the A264.

The Clerk reported that a letter has been received from KCC advising of changes to PROW Officers structure and the local contact is now David Munn.

## 14. Asset Register

Work is in progress and the Clerk circulated the register that has been prepared to date.

## 15. Items for Information

Cllr Turner mentioned that the edge of The Green where visitors to The Hare park their cars, is becoming badly eroded. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would advise Kent Highways although it seems unlikely they would take any action.

The Clerk raised the matter of the footpath at the Pocket Park, Speldhurst. After discussion it was **AGREED** not to salt this footpath or install a salt bin at present. **The snow policy will need to be amended by the Governance Committee.**

Cllr Milner and the Clerk raised the maintenance of the twitten at Badgers Lost, Speldhurst. After discussion it was **AGREED** that it may be necessary to apply animal-friendly weedkiller, during which (and for a short time after) a sign would have to be placed at each end stating 'application of weedkiller in progress'.

The meeting closed at 11.33am

Chairman