



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 24th October 2016 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Allen, Kerby, and Parker

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May - Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no members of the public present

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:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday) and Mrs K Plunkett, Assistant Clerk (holiday)
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 **22nd August 2016**, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session** There were no members of the public present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** All matters were covered by the agenda
8. **Boundary Change:** The Clerk said there had been no further meeting with Rusthall Parish Council (RPC). Cllr Mrs Podbury said that St Paul's Church, Rusthall has an office in Rusthall but the Church is actually outside the Parish and within the boundary of TWBC.
9. **Financial Review:** The Clerk referred to financial papers that had been circulated. He said that the figures for this year and next year had been reviewed by the Finance Committee at the held in the previous week. The budget would be put before Full council at the November meeting.
10. **Parish Council Land**
  - a) **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**
    - 1) Langton Green Village Hall –There were no important matters except for a minor parking issue (see 4)

- 2) Sports Clubs – the Clerk reported on a recent wake that the LGCSA had held for a long serving member who had passed away. The club did an excellent job of marshalling parking for the event on to the grass to avoid congestion with parents’ pick-up time. They had just failed to ask permission to use the grass area for parking which they acknowledged. Overall they managed the situation well. The Clerk also reported on a complaint received from a resident of one of the new houses (replacing the old Police houses) because parking on a Saturday morning has now spread along the road, parking on pavements and making it very difficult to exit their houses and forcing pedestrians on the road. The Clerk will advise them to apply for a “dog bone” and pass the complaint to the LGCSA to try and take control of parking.
    - Pavilion - Cllr Mrs Lyle is working on the final agreements for the pavilion and will make a full report at the November Full Council meeting
    - LGCC - Nothing to report
    - A new large bin has been ordered and will be housed in the wooden area next to the recycling. This is for pavilion and SPC use and the rental will be shared with LGCSA.
  - 3) Play area - The annual play area inspection report by Maria Cook was prepared and ready on 24<sup>th</sup> August. There were several minor low risk areas which Cllr Mrs Podbury has discussed with the Groundsman. Repairs to the fencing and the tables in the picnic area are discoloured are among issues to be resolved and a full update will be available at the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Podbury also mentioned that the wet pour surface had shrinkage and may require replacing at some stage. She said that the budget should be increased to accommodate this.
  - 4) Car park
    - The Clerk reported that the Hall had been recently used for a fund raising event for the Hospice in the Weald with attendees taking up 80% of the car park one afternoon. The Trustees had not informed the school.
    - The Clerk reported that there were two cars parked permanently in the car park. He asked whether the Committee considered this an issue and the matter was discussed. Cllr Mrs Podbury will make enquiries with TWBC regarding measures that could be taken to restrict parking to a maximum of 23 hours per day, should the Council consider it necessary.
    - The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the insurance company regarding signs stating that “vehicles left at owners’ risk” (for instance damage from cricket balls). Came and Co. said that if there was no history of damage the signs were not insisted upon from an insurance perspective.
    - The Clerk has requested Landscape Services send an estimate for renewing the white lines in the front car park.
    - Landscape Services have completed the works for the subsidence outside the Hall.
  - 5) Groundsman – The Clerk reported that he will be discussing the Groundsman’s contract with him and making some recommendations to Council.
  - 6) Trees – All of the recommended work has now been completed but the trees in the teen play area have some low hanging branches that require removal.
- b) **The Green at Langton Green**
- The safety measures proposed by Tate Fencing will be shown to the Headmaster of LGPS prior to further discussion and installation.
  - Stone Cottage is for sale and had some easement enquiries which resulted in a land search at KCC which discovered that the strip of land, previously belonging to the Langton Green Charitable Trust (LGCT) and was now owned by SPC, had been registered as a Village Green and as such enjoyed distinct privileges. The Clerk was making enquiries as to the Green’s status.
  - A resident had advised of the large amount of fungus that has appeared at the base of trunk of the felled beech tree. It was agreed that this should be removed and the Clerk will ask the Groundsman or A1 Services.
- c) **The Green at Groombridge** – Landscape Services have suggested placing 13 granite stones to prevent further erosion of The Green and the quote has been accepted. The Clerk has asked Landscape Services to pollard the trees before December 1<sup>st</sup> so that the Christmas lights can be put up.

- d) **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** – Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the area needs some maintenance and has asked the Groundsman to cut back areas to restore the grass. The footpath that borders Wych Elm Cottage is also in need of clearance but this may require a tree maintenance company to carry out the works.
- e) **Signs on Council land** – The sign for the Speldhurst School PTA bonfire had been erected on the grass opposite The Hare and the Clerk will mention to the headmistress the need for permission. Councillors were reminded to remain vigilant for improper signage on SPC land.
- f) **The Boundary**
  - The quotation for clearance at the pond in The Boundary has been accepted and the Clerk reported that £1,000 had been received from TWBC towards maintenance of this area.
  - The TWBC Tree Officer has considered the tree root problem at 36 The boundary and recommended it be felled to prevent further damage.

#### 11. Public Rights of Way

- a) **The Alan Passmore memorial plaque** – the quotation for a plaque has been approved and had been ordered along with a new one for the Jubilee tree. Cllr Mrs Podbury will order the tree from Perryhill Nurseries.
- b) **Footpath from Penshurst Rd, Speldhurst to rear of school** – No progress has been made and this will be discussed with the Headmistress during the visit in November.

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

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The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman