



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2013 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: County Councillor John Davies, Borough Councillor David Jukes, Mrs M Buckley (Speldhurst Parish Council representative on Langton Green Charitable Trust (LGCT)) and one other member of the public

13/184 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Hull and Woodward (both prior engagement), Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

13/185 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS: There were none.

13/186 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

13/187 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **2nd September 2013** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/188 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor Jukes was asked about the recent grant for buses, which he reported is to be used to reduce pollution. He advised that the transfer of the 'non-performing assets' from TWBC to Councils will take place soon.

County Councillor Davies said that despite previous concerns and pollution monitoring houses have been built alongside the A26 (where pollution is monitored). He reported that the decision has been made to switch street lights off only between 12 midnight and 5.30am along the A264. He confirmed that he has funding of up to £2,500 available for LGCT's proposals to insulate/sound proof the new room at LGVH. He advised that he has been involved in the exchanges of emails regarding the parking situation at the LGRG car park at school drop off and pick up times and had made his feelings on the matter clear. He informed the Council that there will be a cut of £240million in the KCC budget.

Cllr Langridge asked about the proposed expansion of Bishops Down Primary School and Cllr Davies confirmed that it is not going ahead.

Cllr Milner asked if KCC have a program for disposing of non-performing assets. Cllr Davies confirmed that KCC does and that TWBC are acquiring some of the sites.

Borough Cllr Soyke said that she considers that reporting in the Courier has improved.

13/189 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were two members of the public present.

Mr Philip White of Langton Green said he was in attendance in connection with agenda item 7iv) copper beech tree at the Green. He lives adjacent and wanted to establish how soon the tree would be felled.

Mrs Marianne Buckley thanked County Cllr Davies for the offer of financial assistance with insulation of the new committee room and confirmed that LGCT is obtaining further quotations for the work.

13/190 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Hemming

- i) Cllr Hemming reported that a meeting was held on 16th September and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 21st October.
- ii) The Clerk reported on one budget virement. It was **RESOLVED** that £2,100 is transferred from contingency to cover the over spend on tree work at the LGRG.
- iii) Cllr Hemming reported that a grant request had been received from St Martin of Tours Church towards the cost of weatherproofing the clock tower. Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Milner both declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the room. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to grant £2,000. Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Milner rejoined the meeting.
- iv) Cllr Hemming advised that the report has been received from Harraway Tree Services recommending that the Copper Beech tree at The Green, Langton Green is felled as it has giant polypore fungus. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys read out the advice from the Parish Council's Insurers and advised that a Tree Preservation Order application would need to be made to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to obtain consent for this work to be carried out. It was **RESOLVED** following a majority vote with one abstention that the tree be felled. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a quotation has been obtained from Treework to fell the tree in the sum of £3,880 and that two other quotations are being obtained. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to accept a maximum cost of £3,880 to fell the tree. Cllr Milner suggested seeing if KCC Highways would contribute to the cost and Cllr Pendleton suggested obtaining a quotation from Connick Tree Surgeons who do tree work for KCC. **The Clerk to obtain two further quotations, submit the Tree Preservation Order application and contact KCC Highways.**

13/191 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Horne

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in September</u>			
PKF Littlejohn LLP	MT183	480.00	Annual Audit
BT PLC	DD	280.15	Telephone and BB
Total		760.15	

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

St John's Church Groombridge	120	500.00	Churchyard maintenance
Victim Support	121	50.00	Grant
Home-Start South West Kent	122	20.00	Grant
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	MT184	63.00	Publications
RIP Cleaning Services	MT185	172.80	Canine refuse
Harraway Tree Services	MT186	210.00	Tree report
Premiere Digital	MT187	180.00	Open meeting posters
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT188	48.75	Meeting room hire
M R Lawrence	MT189	440.00	Mowing & strimming
Treework	MT190	4,356.00	Tree work at LGRG
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT191	128.62	Maintenance posts & cement