



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER 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, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Milner, Owen and Parker

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies

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

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

14/236 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.

14/237 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Pendleton and Woodward (business engagement), Cllr Turner (family commitment)

14/238 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: There were none.

14/239 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Mrs Hull and Mrs Podbury all declared that they had been lobbied regarding aircraft noise. Cllr Owen declared that he had been lobbied about car parking for, and traffic around, Langton Green Primary School.

14/240 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **6th October 2014** and the Minutes of the Open Meeting held on **13th October 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/241 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr John Davies reported that Arriva have threatened to withdraw the Speldhurst bus service because of the problems of cars parking on the double yellow lines outside the doctors' surgery.

14/242 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no members of the public present.

14/243 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- a) A Committee meeting was held on 20th October and the minutes have been circulated.

- b) Cllr Owen requested that two budget virements be approved; a transfer of £500 from contingency to pay for contributions to HWCAAG and Chiddingstone Parish Council in respect aircraft noise and £350 from contingency for the grant to 1st Langton Green Guides. It was **RESOLVED** that the transfers be made.
- c) Three interim payments had been reported to the Finance Committee and were approved. The Clerk reported on two further interim payments and it was **RESOLVED** to approve these (see list below).
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to donate £60 to the Mayor's Toy Appeal
- e) Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the precept for 2015 – 2016 is increased by 1.92% from £130,000 to £132,500 and it was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 9 in favour and 1 abstention to accept the recommendation.

14/244 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Hull

| <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Cheque/Ref</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Notification of additional payments in October</u> | | | |
| Langton Green Charitable Trust | MT421 | 50.00 | Underlease |
| BT PLC | MT422 | 13.20 | Mobile |
| Unity Trust | AO48 | 0.50 | Bank charge |
| Sainsbury's | AO49 | 66.80 | Refreshments for Open Evening |
| Mower Services | AO50 | 53.04 | Strimmer repair |

Total payments **£183.54**

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st Langton Green Guides | 151 | 350.00 | Grant |
| Chiddingstone Parish Council | 152 | 198.64 | HWCAAG costs |
| HWCAAG | 153 | 150.00 | HWCAAG costs |
| RBL Poppy Appeal | 154 | 125.00 | Poppy Wreaths |
| Streetlights | MT423 | 23.65 | Street light maintenance |
| Treadwell Electrical | MT424 | 99.00 | Pavilion electrical repairs |
| Langton Life | MT425 | 250.00 | Magazine article |
| M R Lawrence | MT426 | 625.00 | Mowing & strimming |
| M R Lawrence | MT427 | 115.00 | Mowing & strimming |
| Mr L Cooper | MT428 | 340.00 | Groundsman's duties |
| Mr L Cooper | MT429 | 36.00 | Footpath clearance |
| Miss K Lawrence | MT430 | 15.00 | Cleaner |
| C May | MT431 | 1,408.45 | Salary |
| C May | MT432 | 61.45 | Expenses |
| M Flemington | MT433 | 668.72 | Salary |
| M Flemington | MT434 | 45.90 | Expenses |
| HMRC | MT435 | 725.80 | Tax & NI |
| RIP Cleaning Services | MT437 | 216.00 | Canine refuse collection |
| SLCC | MT438 | 184.00 | SLCC membership |
| SLCC | MT439 | 116.00 | SLCC membership |
| Commercial Services Trading Ltd | MT436 | 480.00 | Aeration of LGRG pitches |
| Unity Trust Alto | Top up | 350.00 | Top up |
| Tunbridge Wells Borough Council | DD | 55.00 | Non-domestic rates |
| UK Debt Management Office | DD | 3,201.47 | PWLB repayment |

Total payments **£9,840.08**

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

14/245 HIGHWAYS: Cllr Langridge reported that a Committee meeting was held on 10th October and the minutes have been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to renovate the finger post on the corner of Furzefield Avenue and Barden Road at a cost of £580. Cllr Langridge reported that Speedwatch was carried out on Groombridge Hill on 31st October. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a resident regarding the dangers of children crossing the road at The Hare to get to the bus stop. Cllr Langridge asked that this be on the agenda of the next Highways Committee when he will suggest that a survey be carried out at the crossroads. Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that the traffic warden is requested to attend Speldhurst at surgery time in the morning to deter cars from parking on the double yellow lines because this causes a problem for the bus turning round and they have threatened to withdraw the service (see 14/241 above).

14/246 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to permit the Rude Mechanicals theatre company to use the grounds to perform their play on Wednesday 24th June 2015.
- b) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk had a meeting with Langton Green Community Sports Club representatives on 28th October. The Football Association funding is on track and they intend to start the build project in July 2015.
- c) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk had a meeting with KCC and the Contractors. The work on the car parks is scheduled to start on 10th November and will take five weeks. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Milner (in Cllr Mrs Jeffreys' absence) signs the licence for works prior to 10th November.

14/248 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The Clerk reported that the transfer of land in Ashurst is proceeding but that the transfer of the land at The Boundary, Langton Green will not take place until the issue of the maintenance of the pond is resolved. The Clerk and Cllr Milner are meeting TWBC on Wednesday 5th November to discuss the issue.

14/249 DEFIBRILLATORS: The Clerk referred to the report on defibrillators which was circulated to Councillors. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to purchase four defibrillators and heated cabinets through the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) scheme at a total cost of £4,580 plus VAT, fitting and electrical costs and ongoing maintenance costs to a total of £5,500. Withyham Parish Council is considering funding 50% of the defibrillator for Groombridge. It was agreed to print details of the defibrillators in the January newsletter and village magazines and to obtain the education material to pass on to village organisations.

14/250 ASHURST MCDERMOTT HALL TRUST: It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Soyke is re-appointed as Speldhurst Parish Council representative on the Management Committee of the Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust.

14/251 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME: It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the KALC scheme and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that consideration needs to be given to a nomination for this award for 2015. It will be on the agenda for the December meeting for suggestions from Councillors for a nomination.

14/252 DATES OF FULL COUNCIL AND FINANCE MEETINGS 2015: The proposed meeting dates and venues for 2015 had been circulated and these were agreed and are printed at the end of these minutes.

14/253 WEBSITE: The Clerk reported that following the recent incident that involved the website being restored the administrator has strongly recommended returning to a HTML format. The administrator advised that he did not wish to continue supporting the website should the present format continue to be used. There was a discussion and it was agreed to continue with the present format and, if necessary the Clerk was requested to find another administrator.

14/254 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there was a big turn-out for the Open Meeting, mainly for the main topic which was Gatwick and aircraft noise. She thanked Councillors for their contribution and the Clerks for organising the meeting.

14/255 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – There was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – A Committee meeting was held on 8th October and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 10th November.
- c) **Amenities** – The next Committee meeting is on 24th November. The two new trees at The Green, Langton Green are scheduled to be planted on 11th November.
- d) **Air Traffic** – A Committee meeting was held on 30th October and the minutes have been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Air Traffic Committee that the Council's preferred approach (or track) for inbound aircraft is one that uses a broad swathe approach rather than a single track which would blight the lives of those affected. Cllr Mrs Horne asked if campaigning against night flights was still high on the agenda and Cllr Barrington-Johnson confirmed that it was. Along with the whine of the Airbus 300 series these were the two other main issues that they were attempting to resolve. Members of the committee were attending a High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group meeting on 4th November and Cllr Barrington-Johnson is representing SPC at a meeting on 27th November hosted by KCC to discuss the Airport Commission's Consultation.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that there are some stile repairs to be carried out at Stockland Green Road. He also said there had been a couple of incidents on a footpath that runs behind the Speldhurst Primary School. He is attempting to discover who owns the footpath.
- f) **KALC** – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys attended the AGM on 22nd October. The minutes will be circulated when they are received.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – A meeting was held on 15th October and the notes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 19th November.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that Speldhurst has won the 'Best New Entry 2014' in The Kent Men of the Trees - Trees in the Village Competition. Cllr Mrs Hull suggested that Langton enter the competition next year.
- i) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that he has made the grant application to the War Memorials Trust for the restoration/rebuilding of the War Memorial at St Mary's Church. The Trust has confirmed receipt and said that their decision will be confirmed within the next six months.
- j) **Security** – Cllr Langridge reported that he is continuing to investigate CCTV provision and costs.

14/256 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6th OCTOBER 2014: There were none.

14/257 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Press Release dated midnight 16th October from Markerstudy Group regarding the 'scaled down' version of Father Christmas World
2. Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter October 2014
3. Copy of letter dated 8th October from Kent Police and Crime Commissioner to KALC regarding cancellation of the October meeting
4. KALC Parish News
5. Hospice in the Weald News Autumn 2014
6. Email dated 7th October from TWBC with details of the Mayor's Charity Quiz on Saturday 17th January 2015
7. Email dated 3rd October from Mike Palastanga regarding dog mess
8. Email dated 7th October from Bartholomew Wren TWBC – Superfast Broadband Update – October 2014
9. Email dated 21st October from Maxine Sheppard advising that her husband had slipped over on the slabs around the War Memorial at All Saints' Church
10. Letter dated 22nd October from KALC with details of the AGM on 22nd November at Ditton Community Centre
11. Letter dated 22nd October from the Heating Oil Club regarding bulk heating oil purchases
12. Copy of letter dated 23rd October from ABSA to TWBC thanking them for their grant towards the disabled toilet

14/258 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 6th November – Clerk attending KALC L&D Seminar Openness in Local Government - Lenham

Friday 7th November – Meeting with Internal Auditor – Office – **2pm**

Monday 10th November – Planning meeting - Office

Tuesday 11th November – New trees being planted at The Green

Wednesday 12th November - Parish Plan Working Group meeting - LGVH

Monday 17th November - Clerk and Cllr Langridge attending Highways Seminar

Monday 24th November – Amenities meeting – Office

Tuesday 25th November – Parish Clerks’ Networking Event – TWBC – **10am-2pm**

Monday 1st December – **Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH – 7pm**

14/259 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllrs Mrs Hull, Mrs Soyke and Langridge will each lay a wreath on behalf of the Council in Speldhurst, Ashurst and Langton Green respectively, on Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Barrington-Johnson took the wreath for the LGVS and Mr Crundwell will lay the wreath on our behalf at St John’s, Groombridge.

Cllr Langridge reported fly-tipping in Burnt House Lane. **The Clerk to it report to TWBC.**

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.47pm

Chairman

MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – 2015

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| January 5 th | Speldhurst Village Hall – Committee Room |
| February 2 nd | LGVH – Ellis Room |
| March 2 nd | Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall |
| April 13 th | Speldhurst Village Hall – Committee Room |
| April 27 th | ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – LGVH – Main Hall and Palmer Room |
| May 18 th | ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – LGVH – Ellis Room |
| June 1 st | Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall |
| July 6 th | Speldhurst Village Hall – Committee Room |
| August 3 rd | Speldhurst Village Hall – Committee Room |
| September 7 th | Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall |
| October 5 th | LGVH – Ellis Room |
| October 12 th | AUTUMN OPEN MEETING – Speldhurst Village Hall – Main Hall 7.30pm for 8pm |
| November 2 nd | Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall |
| December 7 th | LGVH – Ellis Room – 7pm |

All meetings start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE - 2015

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|-----------|-------------------------|----|----------|-------------------------|
| February | Monday 16 th | | | |
| April | Monday 20 th | | | |
| June | Monday 22 nd | | | |
| September | Monday 28 th | | | |
| October | Monday 19 th | | | |
| November | Monday 16 th | or | December | Monday 14 th |

All meetings will be held in the Parish Office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Finance meetings will also be called on an ad hoc basis when they are deemed necessary