



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011 at 7.30pm  
IN THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman) Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Brown, Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Parker, Pendleton, Ringrose, Owen and Woodward (Cllrs Ringrose and Pendleton left the meeting at 9.35pm)

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

County Councillor John Davies

Borough Councillors David Jukes and Julian Stanyer (both left the meeting at 9.05pm)

Marianne Buckley – Parish Council Representative on the Langton Green Charitable Trust

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** There were none.

**11/105 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:** There were none.

**11/106 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:**

Cllr Owen has been approached by a resident asking about proposals for a path across Speldhurst Recreation Ground from the Village Hall car park to the children's' playground. Cllr Mrs Podbury will pass this on to the Recreation and playground Committee.

Cllr Langridge was contacted by a resident about the work on the land outside The Old Watson Hall.

Cllr Brown has been asked by a resident about overgrown sections of the Twitten in Langton Green. He advised them to write to the Clerk.

**11/107 MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **6<sup>th</sup> June 2011**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed, subject to a correction on page 5 - **11/104** from Speldhurst Road, Langton Green to Langton Road, Langton Green.

**Noted:** That more detail could be given to explain some facts to the public. Councillors were advised to request this when the minutes are in DRAFT format and not wait until the meeting so that any revision could be considered.

**11/108 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:**

The meeting was adjourned.

Borough Councillor David Jukes enquired about the Broadband Open Meeting.

Marianne Buckley advised that she was attending the meeting as the Parish Council representative on the Langton Green Charitable Trust.

**11/109 APPROVAL OF REVISED STANDING ORDERS:**

Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders were discussed and **AGREED**. The Standing Orders will be on the Agenda for adoption at the next Full Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**11/110 APPROVAL OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY:**

The Freedom of Information Policy was **AGREED** subject to minor amendment and will be on the Agenda for adoption at the next Full Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**11/111 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Parker**

- i) Cllr Parker said that there is a meeting scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> July
- ii) Cllr Parker reported that there had been four email decisions by the Finance Committee. It was agreed at the last Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May that requests for donations from non-local organisations, and from societies to which the Parish Council belongs, will not usually be considered. The Committee approved the cost of £180 for six boards to advertise the Broadband evening, the cost of producing the Newsletter of £395 and agreed the Clerk's overtime of 3.25 hours.

**11/112 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Hemming.**

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
04/07/2011	BT PLC	DD	£90.00	Internet Services
04/07/2011	NALC	128	£234.00	Conference 220911
04/07/2011	Union Transport Group PLC	129	£448.78	Dog Bags for dispensers
04/07/2011	BT PLC	130	£31.98	Mobile
04/07/2011	Mark Files	131	£150.00	Formatting Parish Newsletters
04/07/2011	Glasdon UK Ltd	132	£308.24	Dog Bin Ashurst
04/07/2011	Prestige Web Marketing	133	£45.00	July-Sept inc Maintenance
04/07/2011	Langton Green Primary School	134	£450.00	Grant re Marchiennes trip
04/07/2011	Mrs L Jeffreys	135	£62.55	Social event
04/07/2011	RIP Cleaning Services	136	£129.60	Canine refuse collection May
04/07/2011	Langton Green Charitable Trust	137	£12.00	Meeting rooms May
04/07/2011	Mr L Cooper	138	£100.00	Groundsman's duties
04/07/2011	HMRC	139	£565.05	July tax & NI
04/07/2011	M Flemington	140	£400.95	Salary
04/07/2011	M Flemington	141	£100.15	Expenses
04/07/2011	C May	142	£1,139.07	Salary
04/07/2011	C May	143	£212.68	Expenses
04/07/2011	Speldhurst Village Hall	144	£17.44	Meeting rooms Apr-Jun
04/07/2011	M R Lawrence	145	£320.00	Mowing Roopers & The Green
		<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£4,817.49</b>	

**11/113 HIGHWAYS REPORT:**

Cllr Langridge reported that a Committee meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and the minutes have been circulated. He also reported that Speedwatch retraining is required.

There was some discussion about road accidents by Groombridge Farm Shop. **The Clerk was asked to investigate the crash record for the junction and reasons why the A264 was not the major road at this junction.**

**11/006 ENHANCEMENT OF THE LAND OUTSIDE THE OLD WATSON HALL:**

The clerk reported that work started on 27<sup>th</sup> June and is nearing completion.

**2249 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE:**

Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that building work is on schedule with completion due in October. The LGCT advised that the additional car parking area will remain closed until spring 2012 to allow for grass re-seeding and establishment of new matting.

**11/114 NEWSLETTER:**

The newsletter is currently being delivered.

**11/115 LOCAL SCHOOLS**

The barrier extension outside Speldhurst School should be installed by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

A letter has been sent by the Parish Council in support of the two families whose siblings did not get into Speldhurst Primary School.

**11/116 BROADBAND:**

Cllr Woodward reported that he is preparing the structure of the Open Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July and that Brian Tayler of KCC will be speaking. An agenda leaflet will be prepared for attendees and a register of attendees with contact email addresses will be taken at the meeting so they can be kept informed. Cllrs Mrs Podbury, Brown, Owen and Pendleton gave their apologies in advance.

**11/117 SHOPS IN THE PARISH:**

Cllrs Mrs Hull and Langridge held a forum with local shopkeepers on 28<sup>th</sup> June. **The Assistant Clerk will circulate Cllr Mrs Hull's report to members.** The possibility of a page for local businesses on the Parish Council website will be considered.

**11/118 PUBLIC NOTICES ON COUNCIL LAND:**

The proposal from the Planning Committee that consent should be sought of the Parish Council for each sign with a sample of the sign and its size, that signs should only be in place for two weeks prior to an event and that the Parish Council reserves the right to withdraw consent at any time was discussed. It was **AGREED** that this be implemented.

**11/119 VISION FOR KENT 2011-2012 CONSULTATION:**

Cllrs Woodward and Hemming will respond to this and forward their comments to Cllr Mrs Jeffreys who will formulate the answers on behalf of the Council. The deadline is 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**11/120 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Cllr Mrs Soyke's report of the Chairman's meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June has been circulated to members.

**11/121 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- i) Governance Committee – No report.
- ii) Planning – The revised Terms of Reference were **AGREED** and adopted.
- iii) Amenities – A Committee meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June. It was **AGREED** that Village House Nursery can use the field for their sports day. It was **AGREED** that cutting back the bushes should be deferred.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner referred to his written report.
- v) KALC – The report of the Tunbridge Wells Area Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June has been circulated to members.
- vi) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Woodward reported that the date for the next public meeting will be dependent on the timing of supplementary documents and the results being available from the surveys. No immediate response is to be made to the article in the July edition of Speldhurst News.
- vii) Environment – No report. The next Committee meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**11/122 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011:** There were none.

**11/123 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- i) Email from ACRK – Rural News 102 and 103 (both circulated by email)
- ii) ACRK Email re issue 4 of Parish Plan News
- iii) Email from Kent Fire & Rescue Service Performance Plan 2011-12
- iv) Letter from digital UK enclosing a Digital TV Switchover Community Outreach Pack
- v) Various emails (we were cc'd) from David Turner of Speldhurst regarding granite kerb stones in the conservation area (in Northfields) which had been removed and replaced with concrete ones (for information only no action required)
- vi) Email from Husson UK – they have relocated to Aylesbury

- vii) Email from Mrs Ponsford enclosing her copy of a letter to Audit Commission referring to waste and inefficiency in our failure to invest any part of the surplus to gain a reasonable rate of interest. The Parish Council would wait for any comment from the Audit Commission.
- viii) Letter from Langton Green Primary School requesting financial assistance for a forthcoming trip to Marchiennes (to be dealt with at **Finance** meeting 250711)
- ix) Email from Speldhurst Netball Club thanking us for the contribution to the affiliation fees
- x) Email from Judy Price commenting on the Newsletter and supporting the Local Needs Housing project (previously circulated to members) to be referred to **Local Needs Housing Committee**.
- xi) Email from Chris Swan (36 Dornden Drive) saying that the Twitten was overgrown in places and overhanging. Could residents be requested to look after their patch? To be forwarded to **Amenities** for action.
- xii) Letter from Tylines Road Markings Ltd offering their services (they install thermoplastic and paint line markings to car parks, roads (double yellow lines in Speldhurst?) and airfields. They also install anti skid surfacing and joint sealing and reflecting road studs
- xiii) Email from LGPS re their summer ball on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July (previously circulated to members)
- xiv) Email from Stuart Page regarding the work at the verge opposite the Green saying that in his opinion the inner edge of the kerbing is wholly unsympathetic to the character of the Green. **A response will be made after consulting TWBC Conservation Officer.**
- xv) Notification via Cllr Mrs Podbury that the shop in Speldhurst will close Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July – no papers and Post Office
- xvi) Email from Suffolk Association of Local Councils seeking support for new planning guidance to major developers, urging them as a matter of planning procedure to attend meetings to answer questions and provide resources (if so requested) to enable Councils to assess their applications based on professional critique of their evidence. They are requesting us to formally declare support for this proposal which is under way with the relevant Minister (Greg Clark) **Passed to Planning committee for comment and advice**

#### 11/124 DIARY DATES:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July – TWBC Planning Session – 2pm – 4.30pm  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – KHS Seminar at Maidstone – 9am – 1.30pm (Clerk to attend)  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Clerk attending Clerk's lunch  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Broadband Open meeting  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Cllrs Conference - Lenham  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Finance meeting – Committee Room LGVH  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Site meeting – Parish Office 11am  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August – **Full Council Meeting** – Committee Room, LGVH

#### 11/125 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

An estimate for repairs to the dry stone wall in Penshurst Road, Speldhurst (land owned by the Parish Council) will be submitted to the Clerk.

The Assistant Clerk to investigate the street light erected adjacent to The Boundary as part of the adjoining development.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.50pm

CHAIRMAN