



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND DECEMBER 2013 at 7.00pm
IN LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Langridge, Milner, Owen (arrived 8.10pm), Parker, Pendleton, Turner and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present

13/221 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Borough Councillors David Jukes and Julian Stanyer

13/222 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS: There were none.

13/223 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Mrs Hull - minute item 13/237 vi) KALC AGM

13/224 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **4th November 2013** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/225 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that TWBC are working on the budget and that the cultural hub feasibility study is to be reported on in the Courier.

13/226 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public present but he did not wish to speak on any agenda item.

13/227 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the tax base calculated by TWBC has changed for 2014/2015 which means that the increase in our precept is now calculated as 2.5% not 4%. The next Committee meeting is on 12th December.

13/228 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Langridge

| <u>Payee Name</u> | <u>Cheque/Ref</u> | <u>Amount Paid</u> | <u>Transaction Detail</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|

Notification of additional payments in November

| | | | |
|--------|----|-------|--------|
| BT PLC | DD | 18.97 | Mobile |
|--------|----|-------|--------|

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|
| Land Registry | 127 | 42.00 | Land search costs |
| The Mayor's Charity Account | 128 | 60.00 | Christmas toy appeal |
| Treework | MT222 | 408.00 | Tree work LGRG |
| M R Lawrence | MT223 | 625.00 | Mowing & strimming |
| Tate Fencing Ltd | MT224 | 699.60 | Fencing LGRG car park |
| KALC | MT225 | 42.88 | Publication |
| Rymans | MT226 | 33.33 | Stationery |
| Langton Life | MT227 | 250.00 | Advertisement |
| Mr L Cooper | MT228 | 250.00 | Groundsman's duties |
| Miss K Lawrence | MT229 | 15.00 | Cleaner |
| C May | MT230 | 1,406.41 | Salary |
| C May | MT231 | 36.90 | Expenses |
| M Flemington | MT232 | 651.81 | Salary |
| M Flemington | MT233 | 45.50 | Expenses |
| HMRC | MT234 | 731.39 | Tax & NI |
| M R Lawrence | MT235 | 150.00 | Hedge cutting |
| RIP Cleaning Services | MT236 | 172.80 | Canine refuse |
| Tunbridge Wells Borough Council | DD | 54.00 | Non-domestic rates |

Total payments**£5,674.82**

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

13/229 HIGHWAYS: The last committee meeting was held on 7th November and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the work to install the barriers at Barden Road will start on 9th December and that KCC Highways have been asked to divert HGV vehicles away from Northfields. Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that she is stepping down from running Speedwatch and that Cllr Langridge has agreed to take over with help from other Councillors on the Committee. Cllr Mrs Hull advised that KALC recommend that lorries over 7.5T using unsuitable roads are reported on the lorry watch website.

13/230 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported on the meeting held with KCC on 29th November and referred to the correspondence circulated to Councillors thereafter. KCC are intending to submit their planning application this week to include tarmacking the two additional car parking areas to ensure they are useable in all weather conditions and are requesting a 25 year shared access agreement with Speldhurst Parish Council. Following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED** by a vote (7-3 with one abstention) in principle to agree to the tarmacking of the car parking areas, use of these areas by the school primarily at drop off and pick up times when space is available, a reasonable number of staff parking permit spaces in the bottom car park and a 25 year shared access agreement subject to agreement of terms.

It was noted that several councillors had concerns which will need to be dealt with in the heads of terms for the legal agreement which would have to be voted on by Full Council. The concerns were:-

- a) Responsibility for future maintenance of the tarmac car parking areas and the life expectancy of the tarmac
- b) The quality of the tarmac and an appropriate guarantee for the work
- c) Principle of the shared access agreement
- d) Adequate drainage provision
- e) The car parks should remain primarily a parking facility for the Village Hall
- f) Permits for teachers' car parking should be in the bottom car park only
- g) The results of the KCC traffic count surveys and safety audit should be available to SPC
- h) That the work be carried out in school holidays (where possible)

13/231 COUNCILLOR VACANCY: The Clerk reported that there are 4 candidates for the vacancy, proposed interview dates are 16th and 19th December and it is suggested that interviews are carried out by a panel of 3 Councillors. It was agreed that the panel would comprise Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, Cllr Milner and Cllr Mrs Soyke. **The Clerk will arrange the interview dates and times with the candidates.**

13/232 KCC BUDGET CONSULTATION: It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the questionnaire as follows:

Q1. – a mixture of the above

Q2. – a mixed solution – a low tax increase and some changes to access services where absolutely required.

13/233 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the Clerk suggests that Shadwell Wood is considered after the feasibility study on The Green has been progressed and this was agreed by councillors.

The Clerk reported that the title details for The Green will be requested from the Land Registry.

13/234 NEWSLETTER: It was agreed that items for inclusion will be: the precept; installation of the barriers at Barden Road; Parish Plan leader required; ward walks reports; the felling of the copper beech tree at The Green; LGPS expansion proposals update; new Councillor; new PCSO; links to websites for Gatwick consultation; Broadband and lorry watch.

13/235 REPORT ON MEETING WITH TW DCI PATE: The Clerk reported on the meeting held with TW DCI Pate on 26th November and his notes of the meeting had been circulated.

13/236 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she has a meeting at Speldhurst School in December. Cllr Mrs Horne advised that the School bonfire night had raised £3,000.

13/237 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Pendleton reported that the last meeting was held on 21st November and the minutes have been circulated.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that the last meeting was held on 12th November and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 9th December. He reported that TWBC are moving to a 'paperless' system of consultation with Parish Councils with everything dealt with by email and their website.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that the last meeting was held on 14th November and the minutes have been circulated.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported that there has still been no response from Dr Powell regarding dealing with the fallen tree in Shadwell Wood and that Jonathan Bibby of KCC PROW has agreed to write to him direct.
- v) Broadband –there was nothing to report.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that she attended the Tunbridge Wells committee meeting on 19th November and the KALC AGM on 23rd November and her notes of both meetings have been circulated. She said that the AGM was sponsored by and lunch provided by Came and Company and she paid the cost of her lunch as she considered this was lobbying.
- vii) Parish Plan – Cllr Turner reported that the next working group meeting is on 4th December and the current aim is to prepare the questionnaire and find a leader for the working group.
- viii) Environment Working Group – there was nothing to report.
- ix) Gatwick Working Group – Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury attended a meeting regarding the response to the consultation.

13/238 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 4TH NOVEMBER 2013: There were none.

13/239 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. CPRE Fieldwork magazine Winter 2013

2. CPRE Countryside Voice Winter 2013
3. ACRK Rural News Issue 132
4. Kent High Weald Partnership Autumn/Winter Newsletter and 6-month events programme for 2013/14
5. Email dated 29th October from KALC with copy letter from DCLG regarding new parish right to propose direct under Sustainable Communities Act 2007
6. Email dated 6th November from TWBC with details of the Mayor's Charity Quiz on 25th January 2014
7. Letter dated 7th November from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal thanking SPC for their donation for poppy wreaths
8. Kent Police & Crime Commissioner Newsletter November 2013
9. Email from TW CAB dated 21 Nov thanking SPC for their grant
10. Letter dated 27th November from Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association thanking SPC for the grant of £2,600 for the new pavilion kitchen

13/240 DIARY DATES:

1. **Monday 2nd December – Full Council meeting – LGVH – 7pm** followed by drinks at The George & Dragon, Speldhurst
2. Wednesday 4th December – Parish Plan Working Group meeting – LGVH
3. Thursday 5th December – Office closed
4. Monday 9th December – Planning Committee meeting – Office
5. Thursday 12th December – Finance Committee meeting – Office
6. **Monday 6th January 2014 – Full Council meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall**

13/241 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Parker reported that there was an article on Langton Green Village Hall in Index magazine and that Langton Green Rural Society is now on Facebook.

Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that the most recent Speldhurst News has a colour cover but that they had not printed the Speldhurst Parish Council report.

Cllr Milner reported that there are two unauthorised signs on Groombridge Green.

Cllr Mrs Horne reported that she attended Greg Clark MP's meeting on 21st November and that he is trying to promote cycling and establish a cycle route between Penshurst and Tunbridge Wells.

Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that a beech tree in Bird in Hand Street, Groombridge appears to be suffering from giant polypore fungus and she has reported this to Dan Docker TWBC Tree Officer.

The Chairman thanked all the Parish Councillors for their work during this year.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman