



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 20th June 2016 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Soyke, Allen, Kerby, Parker, and Turner

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs K Plunkett – Assistant Clerk, Mr C May - Clerk

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

1. **Election of Chairman:** It was **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr Mrs Podbury as Chairman. She had given prior agreement to the appointment in advance of the meeting. In the Chairman's absence Cllr Turner chaired the meeting.
2. **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.
3. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Podbury (illness), Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday)
4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
6. **Minutes:** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **28th April 2016**, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Public Open Session** There were no members of the public present.
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence**

The Clerk said that he is arranging for an area of the Recreation Ground to be cordoned off next week for parking for both the Primary School Sports Day and the Annual Village Fete.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email concerning the footpath that runs along the back of Speldhurst School which has been closed off for safety reasons. He will approach KCC to determine responsibility for re-instating the footpath.

The Clerk said that he had received a letter from Landscape Services apologising for falling behind in their schedule due to heavy rain.

Cllr Kerby asked whether Landscape Services were responsible for cutting the trees at Groombridge because the pollarding had not been completed properly. It was agreed it was now too late and the work would have to be done properly in the autumn.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from the Stoolball club indicating agreement to the proposed £50 charge.

9. Parish Council Land

a) Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- 1) **Langton Green Village Hall** – The Clerk reported that he had received an email from the Police concerning mini motorbikes riding on the Recreation Ground. Motorbikes have also been reported in Shadwell Woods. SPC's CCTV could not identify the bikes due to the glare of headlamps at night. The CCTV Company will visit the Office to see if there is a solution to the problem. The Clerk said that he had spoken to Roger Mallett at length about the incident reported by Marianne Buckley at the June Full Council meeting. Roger Mallett confirmed that he had been very satisfied with the Clerk's response to the problem of footballers using the village hall facilities during a private hire event and a meeting will be arranged between Chris Allen (LGCSA) and Adrian Moss (LGCT) after Mr Allen has recovered from an operation. The Clerk said that the incident was to be included on the Agenda of the Amenities meeting.
The Clerk reported that there has been a problem with people using LGCT's large green bin which is meant for village hall users only. The SPC Groundsman is actually using this bin for rubbish collected from the Recreation Ground – this can be up to one bag per day. The Village Hall Trustees pay £67 per month to have their bin emptied and the Clerk suggested that the Council should contribute to this expense and he estimated that up to one third of the rubbish is from the Recreation Ground. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that SPC pay one third of the rubbish removal costs going forwards. Once the pavilion is in use it may be that SPC needs to acquire its own wheelie bin which could be sited within the wooden enclosure.
- 2) **Sports clubs** – The Clerk reported that Cllrs Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury and he had met to review the various User Agreements of different village halls in the area. The review will be the initial User's Agreement for the pavilion. Cllr Mrs Podbury and the Clerk also met with two separate groups who both have an interest in catering at the new pavilion, one for a café once a week (Baketastic) and one group who are interested in catering for 7 days a week. This second group would also deal with the booking of the pavilion.
Cllr Turner said it was important not to lose the income stream from the pavilion. It might be best to pay someone to take bookings etc. The Clerk said that SPC would need to be involved in the booking process and suggested a small management team be created for the running of the pavilion. The Clerk suggested having 2 representatives from LGCSA and 2 representatives from SPC and whoever is responsible for bookings. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a management team be created as above.
The Clerk said that Cllr Mrs Podbury had made progress with the Premises Licence for the pavilion. It was **RESOLVED** to apply for the licence straight away.
Public Liability Insurance was discussed and the Clerk said that the annual premium would rise to approximately £500 pa when the pavilion is handed back to the Council.
- 3) **Children's play area** – The Clerk reported that some new ropes for the climbing frame have been ordered and chased but have still not been delivered.
- 4) **Car park** – The Clerk reported that the new posts and lighting are now in place.
- 5) **Motor bike being ridden on the LGRG** – This item was discussed under Agenda Item 8.
- 6) **Groundsman** – The Clerk reported that from next April, PAYE will be payable for all people employed by SPC. In the case of the Groundsman PAYE will not be payable because he is a genuine self-employed worker who has several other employment positions apart from his work with SPC. The Clerk said that the Groundsman continues to do an excellent job; he has many skills and is committed to providing a good service. Cllr Turner asked whether an assistant for the Groundsman could be trained to do the job.

- 7) **Trees** – Most of the recommended work has been completed. There is some outstanding work at the Boundary as a licence for traffic lights is required.
- b) **The Green at Langton Green**
- 1) The Clerk said that he had not made progress with getting a quote for a wooden structure to act as a barrier at the crossing to Lampington Row.
 - 2) The Clerk said that the footpath that runs past the houses opposite the Green has been temporarily repaired so no further action is necessary at present.
- c) **The Green at Groombridge** – Cllr Kerby reported that the potholes have recently been repaired. The problem remains concerning the bank being eroded on the opposite side of the road. The issue was discussed at length. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Mrs Soyke to approach David Crundwell to find out where the stones currently on the bank were sourced before considering whether to lay more stones in the gaps.
- d) **The Pocket Park at Speldhurst** - The Clerk showed the Committee the new signs for horse riding and parking near the bus stop in Speldhurst. These will shortly be put up by the Groundsman.
- e) **Signs on Council land** – Several signs have been put up on the Green in Groombridge and where the event is too far in the future the Clerk removes such signs.
- f) **The Boundary** – The Clerk reported that an email has been received from a lady at No. 73 who backs onto the A264 about trees which have not been cut back. This piece of land now belongs to SPC and the work is scheduled. (see item a7) above.)
- An email has been received from No. 36 about tree roots which are pushing up paving in the driveway. The Clerk said that he will ask Dan Docker to look at this tree.
- There are also trees overhanging the pond which require attention.

10. Public Rights of Way

- a) **The Alan Passmore memorial plaque** – The clerk reported that Cllr Milner is finalising the plaque.
- b) **Recent incidents in Shadwell Woods** – The Clerk reported that Dr Powell has been informed about motorbikes riding in his woods.

11. **Southfields** – The Clerk gave an update on the flower bed project. Cllr Turner asked whether an article could be included in the Parish Newsletter. Cllr Turner agreed to take a photo and send it to the Clerk.

12. **SPC Noticeboard at The Crown, Groombridge** – Cllr Kerby has requested permission for the additional notice board to be sited at The Crown and this has been granted. It was agreed that there is no need for further SPC noticeboards after this one is put up and the one which is on order for Ashurst.

13. **Financial Review** – The financial papers were discussed in terms of budget, expenditure to date and expenditure for the remainder of the year. It was noted that the field rental for cricket use may not be received this year depending on the completion date of the pavilion.

14. **Items for Information:** Cllr Mrs Soyke said that the tree moved from opposite the Hare pub to the Recreation Ground earlier this year is not looking healthy.

The Clerk said that there is evidence of subsidence in the LGVH car park and this requires investigation. Cllr Turner suggested that it might be covered by insurance.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm