



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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Allen, Turner and Barrington-Johnson (ex-officio)

**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:** **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Mrs Podbury as Chairman.
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 Soyke (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 **30 November 2015**, 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**
  - Tree for Stonewall Park Road – The Clerk reported that the new tree (ordered from Perry Hill Nursery) will be planted on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February
  - Update on Hornbeam and Yew Tree – The Hornbeam tree has been replaced by the new Hawthorn tree and the Yew Tree will be relocated into Langton Green Recreation Ground on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

- Letters to residents of The Boundary - the letters to residents informing them of the change in land ownership have been delivered. One response has been received from a resident in Ironstones asking for assurances about future use of the land. **The Clerk will respond.**
- The Clerk reported that the dog bin and dispenser by the gate to LGRG have been demolished by the crane lifting the workers' container. New ones have been ordered and the construction company will be invoiced.
- The Clerk reported that the fence surrounding the children's play area has been vandalised but the Groundsman has already completed the repairs.
- The Clerk reported that Cllr Milner has removed the straps from trees no longer requiring them on Furze Field Avenue.
- The Clerk said that the notice board has been installed on Langton Road.
- The Clerk reported that there has been a request for more litter bins on Langton Green Recreation Ground, near the far end of the new car park.
- The Clerk said that he had not been invoiced by Cory for their service this year. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should contact Cory.
- The Clerk said that Landscape Services had asked for permission to close the playground while they are carrying out maintenance work once a fortnight. **RESOLVED** to allow the closure on safety grounds and the Clerk will put up notices in advance of the works.
- The Clerk read out a letter from a Speldhurst resident asking for more bins in Speldhurst including on the recreation ground. Councillors discussed the problem and the cost of emptying bins and agreed that people should continue to take rubbish home with them.
- Two bus shelters should have been installed in Langton Green today but the one at Farnham Lane had the wrong type of canopy and the one near the Hare has also not been installed. The Clerk will contact the company and report back at the next meeting.

## 9. Parish Council Land

### a) Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- 1) **Langton Green Village Hall** –The Clerk reported that the snooker room has been closed and the table has been sold. This room will become a meeting room and it is hoped that going forward the Ellis Room will not be needed for meetings which will allow the nursery to keep their equipment out overnight.
- 2) **Sports Clubs** –A meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February regarding the Pavilion rebuild. The Committee discussed the building contractor's request to have weekend working in March. It was **RESOLVED** to support weekend working in the interests of getting the Pavilion built to schedule due to the recent bad weather. The Councillors referred to the terms of reference of the Amenities Committee and concluded that they do have the authority to support this request. **The Clerk will write a letter of support.**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys noted that she had received a cost comparison for different heating options for the new Pavilion. Councillors discussed the different options and the related costs and **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the cheapest option over a 10 year period be chosen. The capital costs of this system are already included in the build cost. Cllr Turner said that there would also be the cost of heating water for showers and costs for cooking, all using electricity – such costs not included in the 10 year cost comparison. He expressed his concern about the Council paying the running costs of the Pavilion going forward. He also said that many members of the football club are not from Speldhurst Parish and that it was unfair for Speldhurst Parish residents to be subsidising the club's activities. The Clerk said that SPC would have had to spend a minimum of £100k on the old pavilion as it was in a state of disrepair. He also noted that the pavilion will be rented out to generate a source of income that will offset some of the running costs.

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote of £10k from Sunstone, the CCTV company for installing CCTV in the new Pavilion. Councillors considered this an expensive option and further consideration will be given, which may include delaying CCTV installation, to see if the alarm system is enough of a deterrent. This will need to be referred to Full Council. Sunstone has suggested laying the cables that would be required for CCTV even if this is not installed straight away. The Committee **RESOLVED** to request the cables be laid during the construction phase of the new pavilion.

Sunstone has also given a quote of £1.7k for an alarm system and this is significantly cheaper than the £2.9k currently included in the build cost. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys will relay this to the contractor and ask for a more competitive price for the alarm.

- 3) **Children's play area** – The Clerk reported that there are two repairs outstanding. The Colorado unit needs more rope replacing and the zip wire seat and cable also need replacing. Both are on order.
  - 4) **Car park** – The Clerk has asked Landscape Services to quote for heavy duty metal posts and the lighting to be moved in the vicinity of the hall. A quote will be received soon.
  - 5) **Groundsman** – The Clerk said that the Groundsman is a huge asset to the Council and asked for permission to approach other local Councils to gauge their interest in sharing a full time Lengthsman's role. The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should explore the idea with other local Councils and report back at the next meeting.
  - 6) **Trees** – A quote of £2.5k - £3k has been received from Treework for the work listed in the John Harraway report. The work will begin in the new financial year. The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that this quote be accepted.
- b) **The Green at Langton Green**
- 1) The Headmaster at Langton Green Primary School agrees that a barrier would be suitable at the bottom of the footpath at the crossing to Lampington Row. Councillors discussed a wooden structure and the Clerk said that he would approach Tate Fencing to get a quote.
- c) **The Green at Groombridge** - The Clerk referred to a photograph of the Groombridge Christmas lights which the Council had funded. The lights are stored in the Langton Green container so they are covered by insurance.
- d) **The Pocket Park at Speldhurst**
- 1) The trees in Speldhurst are included in the Treework quote included above.
  - 2) Cllr Barrington-Johnson will write to Sara Andrew about riding her horse through Pocket Park. Cllr Turner will deliver the letter.
- e) **Signs on Council land** – Nothing to report.
- f) **Transfer of land from TWBC**
- 1) SPC has not had to maintain any of the land passed over as yet but may need to start a maintenance program in the near future. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested Landscape Services to quote for the work before the work is required.

**10. Public Rights of Way** – The Clerk gave an update on the Alan Passmore memorial plaque and said that Cllr Milner is in discussion with Sheila Passmore about the details.

**11. Southfields** – The Clerk said that the proposed site of the flowerbed in Speldhurst is unregistered land. Councillors **RESOLVED** to give permission for residents to go ahead with this project.

- 12. Mapping**– The Clerk asked Councillors to consider the purchase of a digital mapping service for the Parish. He distributed a leaflet from Pear Technology who offer this service and said he would like them to present their service for Councillors to see the benefit for the Parish. He explained the administrative problems of going to the Land Registry to find out details of land ownership. Councillors **RESOLVED** to attend a presentation from Pear Technology.
- 13. Litter Clearance** – Cllr Mrs Podbury explained that the litter clearing equipment is being used by other Parishes so the planned cleaning will be moved to a later date. A request for volunteers will be put in Village Magazines.
- 14. SPC Noticeboard at The Crown, Groombridge** – The Clerk has not yet approached the Crown about the Noticeboard.
- 15. Financial Review** – The financial papers were discussed in terms of budget, expenditure to date and expenditure for the remainder of the year. The Clerk said that the Pavilion will be a separate cost centre in the next financial year so that costs can be monitored.
- 16. Items for Information:** There were none

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Chairman