



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

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7th August 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner, Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke, Kerby, Parker, Allen and Mercieca.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor James McInroy.

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

17/154 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.

17/155 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Price (family commitment), Cllr Mrs Lyle, Cllr Barrington-Johnson, Mrs K Harman, Assistant Clerk (all holiday), Cllr Turner and Borough Cllrs David Jukes and Julian Stanyer (all previous engagements).

17/156 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

17/157 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

17/158 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **3rd July 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/159 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: There were no reports from either KCC Cllr or Borough Cllrs

17/160 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no members of the public present

17/161 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Parker reported the following:-

- a) A Finance Committee meeting was held on 31st July and the minutes had been circulated.
- b) Virements – there were no virements to report.
- c) Interim payments – there had been no interim payments since those reported to the Finance Committee
- d) Payments made under delegated authority – there had been no payments since those reported to the Finance Committee
- e) It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote of eight for, with one abstention and one against to approve the new limits for delegated authority for the Finance Committee (new limit £5,000); the Clerk (new limit £500); any two of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk (new limit £1,000) and a new limit of all three (£2,000).

Limits to be used only if an appropriate Council meeting is not scheduled and to be reported as soon as possible.

- f) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the changes to the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Terms of Reference
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to approve installation of the three remaining gateways. The Clerk will report on the exact locations.
- h) The Finance Administrator of St Mary's Church had made a request for the Council to consider a larger grant due to the size of the churchyard should there be any funds be available at the end of the financial year. Councillors agreed to consider this upon a request to be submitted no later than the March meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £1,000 to St Mary's Church towards churchyard maintenance at this time.
- i) It was **RESOLVED** to approve a number of signs to be made for various locations within the Parish. Some changes to the wording were suggested and agreed.

17/162 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury

Additional payments made in July

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
<u>Unity Trust Current Account</u>			
First Rescue	MT1081	1,560.00	Defibrillator and Cabinet
Unity Trust MasterCard	Transfer	129.16	To clear
Veolia	DD	87.00	Waste collection LGRG
<u>MasterCard</u>			
Bank charge	DD	6.00	Card monthly charge
Kidman's Ltd*	MC049	101.46	Repairs

*Payment made under Clerk's delegated authority

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
ICO	DD	35.00	Data Protection subscription
Chiddingstone PC	232	69.75	Air Traffic Clerk costs
Speldhurst Village Fund	233	260.62	Grant - Speldhurst Fete Insurance
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT1084	24.00	Meeting Rooms
Paul Cheater	MT1085	112.00	Pavilion Cleaning
Knockout Print	MT1086	390.00	Summer Newsletter
C May	MT1088	1,807.47	Salary
K Harman	MT1089	605.60	Salary
L Cooper	MT1090	640.70	Salary
Quickfix Ltd	MT1092	183.36	Jubilee Awards
Computer Repairs	MT1094	112.50	IT support
Direct Waste Services	MT1095	1,000.00	Waste clearance Pocket Park
K Harman	MT1096	34.65	Expenses
RBS Software Solutions	MT1097	139.20	Annual Bookkeeping support
C May	MT1098	17.55	Expenses
M R Lawrence	MT1091	320.00	Mowing and strimming
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1099	172.80	Canine Refuse Collection
Commercial Services Trading	MT1100	682.04	Groombridge Green mowing
Commercial Services Trading	MT1101	1,773.08	LGRG mowing

Commercial Services Trading	MT1102	3,107.36	White lining car park LGRG
L Cooper	MT1093	18.54	Expenses
Paul Cheater	MT1103	140.00	Pavilion cleaning
M R Lawrence	MT1104	320.00	Mowing and strimming
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1087	25.96	Pension Payments
KCC (KCS)	DD	11.76	Photocopier

Total: £12,033.94

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

17/163 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: A Committee meeting was held on 24th July and the minutes had been circulated. Cllr Milner reported the following:-

- Speedwatch- Cllrs Milner, Mercieca and Allen will co-ordinate to arrange a session in September when the new school term starts
- SID – the new SID has been delivered but appears faulty. The Clerk is to contact the manufacturer.
- Gateways – the first four gateways are now in place however the gateway at Groombridge is still not as ordered and the Clerk is chasing its replacement. The Clerk has also asked Highways to cut back all obscuring vegetation surrounding the gateways.
- 20mph – the consultation for the 20mph zone for Speldhurst closed on 3rd July and there were two objections. This now has to go before the Director of KCC Highways for his decision. The costing of the 20mph advisory restrictions in Langton Green should be known for the September meeting.
- 60-40mph – the Clerk has written to 24 houses and all statutory consultees. He will send in the forms as soon as possible.

17/164 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Pavilion income for the July was £1,407.00 against expenditure of £2,192.16 which included two large invoices for electricity £625.00 and insurance £1,340.00
- b) The car park has been re-lined with additional yellow hatching to deter parking in areas likely to cause congestion.
- c) The Clerk has been contacted by a “Boot Camp” instructor who would like to use the LGRG for workouts. It was considered that as this was a business that a nominal charge should be made and the Clerk was asked to contact TWBC for further advice.

17/165 PARISH PLAN: There was nothing to report

17/166 ASH DIE BACK: There have been reports of the tree disease in neighbouring parishes so it was **RESOLVED** to commission Treework to survey the trees on our land and to submit a report for the next Full Council meeting.

17/167 HOLLY BUSH PLANTING: A request had been received from Mrs Earwaker to plant a holly bush in a grass verge where Roopers meets Ferbies, land not owned by the Parish Council. Councillors raised concerns about the height of the bush and future maintenance. The Clerk was asked to convey that a specimen shrub be used instead.

17/168 FIRE HYDRANTS PROJECT: This is a Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) and Kent Fire & Rescue Services (KFRS) initiative asking Parish Councils to undertake additional checks on fire hydrants by visual checks and report any obvious defects to KFRS. Cllr Mercieca asked about insurance implications and if there was any liability. The Clerk will advise the insurers that SPC will participate in the project and maps would be forwarded to Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to support the project.

17/169 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Nothing to report

17/170 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had not been a meeting of the Governance Committee since the last Full Council meeting and that there was nothing to report. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday 14th August.
- b) **Planning** – In the absence of Cllr Mrs Price, the Clerk said that there had been a meeting of the Planning Committee on 5th July 2017 and the minutes had been circulated. Another meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd August and the minutes had not yet been circulated. The Clerk mentioned that the MUGA application on the Speldhurst Recreation Ground had been supported and that SPC would be contacting TWBC regarding the sign at Burrswood.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 17th July 2017 had been circulated. She mentioned the MUGA in Rusthall was in poor condition. Cllr Kerby discussed Groombridge Place and the current situation regarding the planning consent which had expired in 2013. Events such as the Open Air Cinema were being advertised and he was unsure if they were allowed and wanted SPC to be more proactive in its contact with TWBC. Cllr Soyke said she will ask the Enforcement Officer for an update.
- d) **Air Traffic** – nothing to report
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner is to install a new gate in Langton Green at Pokehill between Adam's Well and Groombridge on WT109
- f) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – there was no report

17/171 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5th June 2017 – there were none.

17/172 CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reported the following;

- The office will be manned by Mrs Flemington on Friday 18th and Friday 25th August
- There will be no Clerk's notes to support the papers for the September Full Council meeting which may have to be emailed for expediency.
- On Saturday 30th September Langton Green Village Hall is being used as a base for Kent Weald Girl Guiding for walks. This will clash with football and parking will be at a premium.
- Barden Road will be closed between Cobhams and Speldhurst Hill for 10 working days from 11th September.
- A budget virement will be required to cover the cost of the white lining
- A KALC Training day for Chairmen (Council and Committees) on 23rd September in Elham Village Hall. Cllr Milner said he would be interested in a Social Media course.
- The Clerk was still waiting for completed training questionnaire forms to be returned from Councillors.

17/173 DIARY DATES:

Monday 14th August – Governance Meeting 9am – Office

Monday 4th September – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

17/174 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- It was noted with regret that Cllr Mrs Horne will resign from the Council with effect from the September meeting.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman