



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6th March 2017 at 7.30pm
IN SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Price, Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Milner, Turner, Kerby, Mercieca, Parker.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors David Jukes (left 8.30pm), Julian Stanyer (left 9pm) and County Councillor John Davies (arrived 8pm).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were four members of the public present

17/045 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.

17/046 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Allen (prior engagement).

17/047 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

17/048 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Mrs Price said that she had been lobbied about the Speldhurst Cricket Club grant request. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that she had received verbal support regarding the 20 mph campaign.

17/049 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **6TH February 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/050 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Borough Councillor David Jukes advised that on 22nd February 2017 they had produced a balanced budget without government grants. In 2017/18 TWBC is expecting to make a contribution back to the Government for allocation to other councils. Borough Cllr Jukes is looking at different ways to increase income including making applicants pay for planning applications and licencing fees. He explained his case for the proposed building of the civic centre versus remaining in the existing buildings. Cllr Barrington-Johnson enquired about the effect of the increase of business rates on local businesses. Borough Cllr Jukes replied that he didn't see this being a problem.

17/051 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: It was agreed that the discussion regarding the Speldhurst Cricket Club would be held under Grant Requests.

17/052 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- a) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said there had been a Finance Committee meeting on Monday 20th February 2017, the minutes having previously been forwarded to all Members.

- b) Virements were reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting and the changes agreed. Transfers from Earmarked Reserves require Full Council approval and it was **RESOLVED** to transfer £7,150 from the reserves to pay for white lining in the car park £2,600; £3,300 for the new surface under gyrosipal and £1,250 for repairs to the cycle.
- c) Interim payments - the following interim payments have been made:
Current Account: £69.60 Veolia
Mastercard: £12.80 petrol and £55.00 stamps.
- d) The following payments have been made under delegated authority since the last Full Council meeting: £12.80 petrol, £55.00 stamps, £26.60 notice board for the pavilion.
- e) Grant request from Speldhurst Cricket Club (SCC) for a contribution towards cricket nets – three members of SCC attended the meeting (Nick Coffin, Chairman and Head Junior Coach, Alison Harrison, fundraising and Edward Pinnell, Treasurer). Nick Coffin explained to Councillors the importance of the new nets which would be positioned permanently on the recreation ground. He said they had a quotation for £16,900 for the installation and had to date fundraised £6,500. They are looking for additional funding of £10K. He had approached Biffa and also Veolia regarding grants. Biffa had rejected their request because the grounds are not owned by SCC and Veolia had advised them to reapply when planning was clarified during their next grant tranche in June. Councillors agreed to consider the request when it was known what the status of the Veolia bid was. Councillors also encouraged SCC to look at other areas of funding/grants. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Mr Coffin to report back to Full Council in April with an update on progress.
- f) Request from West Kent Mediation for a grant to support their service. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked that a letter be sent to WKM to establish the number of residents in the parish who use their services. Once this information was known, a decision regarding a grant would be made.
- g) Request from Woodland Trust to purchase 116 acres of pastureland in Hucking. It was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant.

17/053 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Horne.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
Langton Life	MT978	250.00	Magazine article
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT979	24.00	Meeting Room
Came and Co	MT980	25.00	Amendment Insurance
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT981	873.97	Pedestrian Barrier
Barge Group Ltd	MT982	3,963.60	Playground repairs
CPRE	300230	36.00	Membership
RIP Cleaning Services	MT983	172.80	Canine Refuse
Paul Cheater	MT984	112.00	Pavilion Cleaning
KALC	MT985	72.00	Training Seminar
G Merceica	MT986	52.20	Travel
Kate Harman	MT987	21.15	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT988	34.15	Expenses
C May	MT989	55.35	Expenses
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT995	36.00	Meeting Rooms
M R Lawrence	MT996	450.00	Bushes Langton Road
Haymarket Media Group	DD	150.00	Magazine Subscription
BT PLC	DD	399.48	Telephone & BB
Mr L Cooper	MT990	639.74	Salary
Kate Harman	MT991	562.08	Salary
C May	MT992	1,304.01	Salary

N.E.S.T. Pension Contributions	MT993	25.18	Pension Contributions March
HMRC	MT994	3,849.22	Tax and NI Contributions
Total payments		13,137.93	

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

17/054 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: There had been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting.

- Speedwatch – Cllrs Milner and Barrington-Johnson encouraged Councillors to sign up to set an example and to ask as many volunteers as possible to take part.
- Cllr Kerby said that it was encouraging to see police presence on Groombridge Hill on two separate occasions recently.
- 20 mph – The Clerk advised that £2,200 had been paid to KCC to start the process. Kirsty Williams is leading the design and official consultation. Feedback had been received from several residents – the majority in favour, some against and some, whilst in favour, are doubtful the new 20 mph zone will be effective. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that TWBC are trying to re-educate drivers using posters etc.
- Gateways – Cllrs enquired whether the roads could be narrowed where the gateways are installed as a method of traffic calming. The Clerk confirmed that due to safety and cost implications this option is not viable.
- Pot holes – The Clerk reminded Councillors that pot holes can be reported on the KCC website.

17/055 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

Bookings have been taken throughout the summer. They are constantly reviewing the booking documentation which may lead to an independent booking clerk in due course. Hiring prices will continue to be reviewed.

Pavilion alarm – Cllr Mrs Lyle will investigate how this can be activated.

17/056 PARISH PLAN:

Parish Plan working party – Cllr Barrington-Johnson advised that there would be a working party meeting soon, and he will be able to give a more comprehensive report back to Councillors at the April meeting. He noted that all Committee Meetings had an agenda item in on relevant actions and progress.

17/057 CHAFFORD LAND SLUICE – THE WEIR – The Environment Agency is considering removing the old sluice on the River Medway at Chafford Park, mainly because of maintenance costs of the old mechanism. Concern was raised regarding how this would affect water levels and in particular income from fishing rights. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that there are meetings in March (25th 10.30am-2.30pm and 30th March 4pm-8pm) to discuss the possibility of removal and likely impact. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked if SPC could be informed of the outcome of this meeting.

17/058 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: There was nothing to report.

17/059 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) **Governance** – A meeting was held on Thursday 9th February, the minutes having been distributed.

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the mandates for using direct debits and standing orders.

It was **RESOLVED** to update the listed policies as suggested:

- Signs on Council Land – no change
- Lone Worker – no change
- Budget Virement – minor changes
- Freedom of Information – minor changes
- Financial Standing Orders - changes
- Complaints Policy – minor change
- Grants Policy and Grants Template for requests – no change

- viii. Financial Control - changes
 - ix. Code of Conduct for Employees – no change
 - x. Governance Committee TOR – no change
 - xi. Internal Audit TOR - change
- b) **Planning** – a meeting was held on Wednesday 8th February, the minutes having been distributed
- Cllr Mrs Price had prepared a first draft document of the sites within the Parish that need to be identified for protection and registered with TWBC. She said that SPC should not assume existing protection will remain and suggested casting the net widely within the Parish to make sure nothing is excluded. She asked Cllrs to review her document and feed back to her any changes they would like made before the Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 8th March. Cllr Barrington-Johnson acknowledged and thanked Cllr Price for the large amount of work she had put into this project so far.
 - How to Fix a Broken Housing Market white paper– Cllr Mrs Horne advised that Cllrs would look at putting together a response at the Planning Committee meeting on 8th March.
- c) **Amenities** – A meeting was held on Monday 27th February, the minutes having been distributed.
- Cllr Mrs Lyle proposed an amendment to the Amenities TOR; “to work with the LGCSA” ie removing “management committee”. This amendment along with other suggested changes by the committee was agreed.
 - Joy Festival – Cllr Mrs Podbury had investigated the licence for this event and said that it is likely to be much larger attendance than the 500 suggested visitors which may cause both noise and parking issues. The licence cannot be revoked until a complaint has been received by which time it will be too late. She will request that Sevenoaks DC include SPC in any future applications.
 - Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the Parish Plan had been considered and asked the working group to review the committee’s comments.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson advised that a meeting had been held on 13th February, the minutes having been distributed to discuss the response to the night flight consultation which had been submitted. A further consultation was now out regarding air space management and he commented that there will be more consultations during the coming year.
- e) **Footpaths** –
- Pocket Park – Cllr Milner said that the Groundsman had done a good job so far clearing brambles etc. The metal gate to the Twitten needs mending and looks like it may have some historical interest. He will look into getting it repaired.
 - Cllr Milner had had a request from Mr Murray at 19 Roopers to mow his strip of verge which runs along the road leading up to the Pocket Park. Councillors said that SPC are unable to maintain private property.
 - Maintenance work will be carried out on the Kent High Weald Project on 11th May to clear parts of the Tunbridge Wells circular walks. Cllr Milner said that a group of volunteer residents had already done some minor tidying up of the footpaths around Stockland Green.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – There was a meeting on 22nd February which SPC hosted and both Cllr Barrington-Johnson and the Clerk attended.
- There was a speaker from the TW over 50’s Forum who asked councils to publicise this organisation within their own parishes. Leaflets are with the Clerk.
 - Cllr Barrington-Johnson noted that several councils are compiling neighbourhood plans but those that had just completed Parish Plans (like Speldhurst) do not have an appetite for a NP at present.
 - Other parishes have suffered similar setbacks and delays when trying to introduce traffic-calming measures.
 - All councils are keen to have input into the new waste management contract when signed by TWBC.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Price said that the first meeting would be on 15th March when they would discuss their terms of reference. They will also look into possible updates to the SPC website as suggested in the Parish Plan.

17/060 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9th JANUARY 2017: No other matters.

17/061 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Email from Andy Yates thanking SPC for agreeing to pay the insurance for Speldhurst's Pram Race.
2. Letter from Mrs Stephanie Hayward, Headteacher at Speldhurst CEP School, thanking SPC for their generous grant of £2,500 towards the upgrade of their utilities.
3. Letter from West Kent Mediation advising of their victim led restorative justice project.
4. Letter from Abby Lloyd and Fiona Gruneberg who are hoping to open a Free School in Rural South Sevenoaks in 2019 and enquiring if anyone from SPC would be interested in attending an information evening.
5. An email from the Clerk to Withyham Parish Council inviting anyone from Speldhurst Parish to attend Withyham's Annual Parish Assembly. Cllrs Barrington-Johnson and Mrs Podbury said they hoped to attend.
6. A letter from Samaritans Tunbridge Wells and District thanking SPC for their grant of £250.
7. The Parish News February 2017 from KALC.
8. All correspondence from residents responding to our Newsletter on 20mph was circulated.

17/062 DIARY DATES:

Monday 6th – Full Council, Committee Room, Speldhurst Village Hall

Wednesday 8th – Planning Committee

Wednesday 15th – Environment Working Group

Thursday 23rd – KALC Planning conference (West Faversham)

Thursday 30th – KALC Audit Seminar (Lenham)

April 2017

Monday 3rd – Full Council, Ashurst Village Hall – Main Hall

Wednesday 19th – Planning Committee

Monday 24th – Annual Parish Meeting

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

17/063 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: -

Cllr Milner noted the fly-tipping near to Salomons.

Cllr Mercieca said that he had recently attended a seminar on sustainability and renewable energy which had been inspiring. His report on the seminar is with the Clerk if any Cllrs would like more information.

The Clerk advised that he had secured David Pate, Chief Inspector of Police, as a speaker for SPC's APM. He would discuss policing in the area and some wider issues.

The Clerk also advised that he had attended a KALC/KFAS Information Event on Devolution. He will issue a report in due course.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Chairman