



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in The Committee Room, Ashurst Village Hall on Thursday 30th June 2011 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Parker, Milner, Owen and Woodward

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were none present

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Milner was nominated by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Owen. Cllr Milner duly accepted and was elected Chairman.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Ringrose (previous engagement)
3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** Cllr Owen declared a personal interest – he has a stepson who attends the Sports Club
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **The Minutes of 25th October 2010** were signed as a correct record.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The matter of a new notice board in Langton Green had been brought to the attention of the committee by Cllr Langridge as the existing one by the old Post Office was too small and no longer in a good position. It was agreed that this would be considered in next year's precept.
7. **Public Open Session**
Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.
There were no members of the public present.
8. **A review of the committee's responsibilities**
The brief of this committee has changed from just the Recreation Ground at Langton Green to now include all the amenities within the Parish. It now includes all owned land and land that is administered, assets such as the playground, pavilion and the maintenance of the lands. This section was to update Cllrs of their responsibilities.
 - The budget was analysed
 - The land under ownership and land administered was explained
 - Facilities, such as the pavilion and playground, were discussed

- Field rentals were explained
- Maintenance and contracts were discussed

It was agreed that a more detailed listing was required. **The Clerk would prepare the report.**

9. Enhancement of the land outside the old Watson Hall

- The work had started on the project on Monday 27th June and the “islands” were in the process of being built. A letter from Mr Page said that the kerbing was urbanising the area. The Clerk explained that he had consulted TWBC Conservation Department at all times and the plans had been passed. The first duty for the Council was one of safety for pedestrians.
- TWBC had written a letter confirming that they would contribute 75% of the cost.

10. Sports Pavilion – Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

An email had been received from Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) at the Clerk’s request asking for the facilities and storage space to be improved. It was generally agreed that the pavilion needed to be updated but before any recommendations could be made to Full Council it was agreed that an initial costing would be ascertained for the preparatory work for a design and from there an idea of what could be done and what money would be needed to be considered and what funding could be applied for. In a separate email, the LGSC had highlighted discussions it had had with KCC regarding potential funding and the possibility of the LGSC be granted a tenure on the building which would improve the chances of a wider variety of funding sources. It was agreed that this would not be the Council’s first preference but would be left as an option to be considered. **Clerk to contact an architect for costings.**

Noted: the next meeting of the committee would be at the LGVH when a site visit of the pavilion would be made.

11. Furzefield Avenue

The enhancement had been completed but the stones have been damaged by motorists and it was discussed whether to replace them with solid wooden posts that were in stock in the container in LGRG. It was agreed to monitor the situation and if further damage was done then a recommendation to Full Council to replace the stones would be made at the August meeting. **Cllr Milner will monitor the issue.**

12. Trees in the Parish – an update

The Clerk updated the committee on the work that had been carried out in the past year. Work had been done on trees in Roopers and to two large trees in the LGRG. At the time Treework, who carried out the work, suggested a survey of all the trees on the LGRG should be made so that the Council would have an overall picture of any work that would be required in the future.

Cllrs were not in favour of a company surveying the trees that could be in contention to do the work and an independent arborist would be sought. **Clerk to contact TWBC Officer for recommendations.**

13. Village Nursery sports day on LGRG

- Cllrs agreed to recommend that the Nursery be allowed to have their sports day on the field rented from Ashurst Place.
- Cllrs agreed that signage at the entrance of the LGRG advising that there was a nursery and that small children were around. **Clerk to investigate costs of new signs**

14. Camping on LGRG

An approach had been made by a resident requesting permission for a group of teenage children to camp overnight on the Ashurst Place field on the LGRG and what the circumstances were under which this would be allowed.

There was much discussion on this issue and the committee considered a number of circumstances; a responsible adult at all times for example would be the minimum requirement but overall they were minded to refuse. However no conclusion was reached other than to look into what other organisations required from users and to investigate if there was a formal agreement between Ashurst Place and the Council on use of the field. It was suggested in the meantime that the resident be referred to other camp sites in the vicinity.

15. Overgrown bushes and trees on footpath at LGRG

It was **agreed** that the footpath was not particularly overgrown at the present time and would ask that the Groundsman defer his work to nearer the autumn. This would be recommended to Full Council.

16. TWBC greenspaces report

It was **agreed** that the offer from Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) be taken up.
Clerk to contact KHWP

17. Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

The committee **agreed** that it did not see how this project would help Speldhurst Parish and would recommend that it did not participate.

18. Ownership Sign

The clerk would look into having the sign made with the other signs.

19. Items for Information – A review of the Terms of Reference would be made at the next meeting. **Clerk to send a copy to Cllr Milner**

Cllr Milner advised that KCC had cut back on their programme of cutting the seasonal growth by 50% and now cuts were being made once a year. He said that Breakstones Lane was now off the list.

The Clerk advised that the wooden fence around the Nursery area had been damaged by strimming and was a potential hazard to the children. **Cllr Milner advised that he would investigate and if necessary repair.**

Cllr Milner, responding to an enquiry by Cllr Parker, said that the stile at Paveys was to be restored or replaced.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm

Chairman