



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 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Owen, Parker, Turner (arrived 7.34pm) and Mrs Hull and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk; Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **To receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Woodward (prior engagement)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** Cllr Milner and Cllr Mrs Hull declared that they had been lobbied in respect of the maintenance of Pocket Park, Speldhurst – Agenda Item 11.
4. **The Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013** were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence**  
Cllr Owen reported that some cars are still parking dangerously at the A264 junction when visiting The Hare. **The Clerk to write to The Hare.**
6. **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.
7. **Financial Review**  
The Clerk circulated and reviewed the figures.
8. **War Memorials**
  - i. The Assistant Clerk reported that Langton Green War Memorial was cleaned by Burslem on 3<sup>rd</sup> April but that the temperatures were too low that day for re-pointing. This is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> April (weather permitting).
  - ii. A decision on Speldhurst War Memorial will be deferred until the work is complete on Langton Green War Memorial.

## 9. Next Phase of Enhancement on The Green

- i. Extension of footpath – the Assistant Clerk reported that this is being deferred until the South East Water meters have been installed. Meter installation is currently scheduled to be completed within the next three months.
- ii. Planting of a tree – Cllr Milner, Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Assistant Clerk are meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April to agree the location for the replacement tree. After discussion regarding species it was **AGREED** to consider a Yew tree that could also be decorated at Christmas by the Rural Society. **The Assistant Clerk to research suitability and costings.**

## 10. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Pavilion - the Clerk reported that the Sports Club's planning application has been approved by TWBC and that he had a recent meeting with Allan Culverhouse of the Sports Club. LGSC were considering requesting Speldhurst Parish Council to submit the Sports Council grant application. It was **AGREED** that the VAT implications of this need to be ascertained before making a decision.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the Groundsman is carrying out and reporting on his weekly playground inspections. The repairs to the wet pour surfacing and the cradle swings will be carried out this month.
- iii. Recycling facilities at LGRG – the Clerk reported that an article has been placed in all the village magazines about the recycling issues and the situation will be monitored.
- iv. Hiring of recreation ground – the Clerk advised that there are three current requests; TWBC for the Family Fun Day which is an event free to all participants; a theatre company running a charity outdoor theatre production and a commercial fair event. After discussion it was **AGREED** as follows; no charge to TWBC; a charge of £25 to the theatre company and a charge of £125 to the commercial fair to include use of the facilities in the pavilion. **The Clerk to advise each applicant of the charge.**
- v. Security of container – the Clerk advised that the container lock needs to be modified at a cost of approximately £150 to make it fully secure. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the **Clerk will email the Finance Committee for approval to this expenditure.**
- vi. Maintenance of grounds – the Clerk reported that there has been less of a problem with rubbish over the winter.
- vii. Car parks – the Assistant Clerk reported that a quotation has been obtained from Tate Fencing in the sum of £504 to install 12 posts to the open areas at the side of the parking area or £1,722 to install 41 posts around the whole area. After discussion it was **AGREED** to obtain quotations for planting a hedge and erecting a temporary fence while the hedge establishes before making a decision. **The Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations for hedging and fencing.**
- viii. Placement of new bench - Cllr Milner, Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Assistant Clerk are meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April to agree the location for the Diamond Jubilee bench.
- ix. Dog mess – the Clerk reported that an email had been received from a resident expressing concern at dog mess on LGRG and adjoining paths. **The Clerk to write to the resident confirming present arrangements and suggest that a leaflet drop is arranged.**

## 11. Mowing of Pocket Park, Speldhurst

The Clerk reported that a number of emails have been received from residents; 6 against the proposed reduced mowing of the area and 1 in favour. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Amenities Committee will recommend to Full Council that for a trial period this year the area by the path is cut regularly with the rest being left as longer grass and rough cut when necessary.

**12. Maintenance of land at The Boundary, Langton Green**

The Clerk reported that the transfer of this land from TWBC will not take place until later this year and maintenance will not start before 2014/15.

**13. Groombridge Christmas Lights**

The Clerk reported that a quotation has been obtained from Treadwell Electrical for £192 to test the lights and carry out any minor repairs and £48 to carry out testing and issuing of a certificate in October/November. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the **Clerk will email the Finance Committee for approval to this expenditure.**

**14. New Notice Board in Speldhurst**

The Assistant Clerk reported that Speldhurst Chapel have given permission in principle for Speldhurst Parish Council to place a Notice Board within the edge of the Chapel car park opposite Speldhurst shop. After discussion it was **AGREED** to put the single Notice Board (recently removed from the old Post Office in Langton Green) in this location.

**15. Stone Wall on Penshurst Road, Speldhurst**

- i. Repairs - **The Clerk will obtain a quotation from Alan Ashby for the necessary repairs and write to the Bus Company as the bus keeps damaging the wall.**
- ii. Asset Register – **The clerk will add a photograph of the wall following repair to the Asset Register.**

**16. Trees on Council land**

The Assistant Clerk reported that the current phase of work at LGRG and Pocket Park, Speldhurst has been completed.

**17. Footpaths**

Cllr Milner reported that Derek Robinson has compiled a list of landowners and that the walkers' footpath board will be put back up outside St Mary's Church, Speldhurst shortly.

**18. Asset Register**

Work is in progress and the Clerk will add the stone wall on Penshurst Road, Speldhurst and appropriate maps to the Asset Register.

**19. Items for Information**

Cllr Parker said that a blue Frontera vehicle is parking in LGRG car park for long periods of time including overnight.

Cllr Turner mentioned that the edge of The Green where visitors to The Hare park their cars is becoming badly eroded. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would advise Kent Highways although it seems unlikely they would take any action.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the expansion of Langton Green Primary School will go ahead and discussed the implications of this on the LGRG car park.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm

Chairman