



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

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 5th JULY 2010 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Hull, Mrs Waters, Brown, Ellis, Langridge, Milner, Parker, Pendleton and Wheeler

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chris May, Clerk; Mrs M Flemington, Assistant Clerk

Borough Councillor David Jukes (left the meeting at 8.55pm)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mrs Paulson-Ellis (holiday)

10/076 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

Personal & Prejudicial – Cllr Mrs Soyke - Ashurst Village Common Land (1825-3). The clerk - approval of his overtime (10/094ii)

10/091 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: No declarations were received

10/092 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **7th June 2010**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.

10/093 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – The meeting was adjourned. Cllr Jukes brought to the attention of the Council the roadworks in Barden Road due to start on July 25th for seven weeks. The meeting was re-opened.

10/094 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Parker

- i) Cllr Parker referred to Cllr Brown's request that all spending over the budget should be itemised in the contingency account (10/078) and advised Council that, in his opinion, this was meant for amounts that were significant and not for minor aberrations. The clerk said that he had carried out the request and at the moment it was not arduous and he was happy to continue booking all amounts. It was **AGREED** to review the procedure in three months.
- ii) The clerk left the room. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk's overtime was approved. The clerk rejoined the meeting.
- iii) Cllr Parker said that there were three email requests for a decision by the Finance Committee. A request for authority from the website working party to fund the website domain name which would exceed budget by £44.50 which was approved. A £30 payment to the local KALC secretary was approved.
- iv) There was a split decision on whether to increase the grant to Langton Green Primary School for the trip to Marchiennes because of an extra coach that was required to take more children. The budget had been increased from £400 last year to £450 this year and half of the committee wanted to stay within budget and the other half wanted to increase it to help the schoolchildren. After some discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** to increase the grant to £500 on the proviso that should the number of children drop and only one coach is needed then the grant would be reduced. **The clerk to write.**

- v) The clerk was in the process of obtaining a quote from Scottish and Southern Energy for street lighting but it was taking longer than anticipated. He hoped to have switched contracts in the next month subject to a satisfactory quote.

10/095 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – June 2010 – Invoices verified by Cllr Milner

HMRC	£644.17	Employee(r)s Tax & NI	857
Mr C May	£1,228.91	Salary	858
Mr C May	£380.54	Expenses (inc new printer)	859
Mrs Flemington	£386.50	Salary	860
Mrs Flemington	£97.40	Expenses	861
Speldhurst Village Hall	£74.40	Hall Hire (3 months)	862
EDF Energy 1 Ltd	£126.17	Street Lighting	863
M R Lawrence	£130.00	Ashurst strimming	864
KALC	£30.00	Honorarium local secretary	865
BT PLC	£30.81	Mobile	866
BT Payment Services Ltd	£165.62	Internet Services	867
Viking Direct	£129.60	Stationery	868
SLCC	£47.00	Clerk's Manual	869
M R Lawrence	£80.00	LGRG clearing	870
M R Lawrence	£180.00	Roopers mowing	871
RIP Cleaning Services	£132.19	Dog bins	872
LGCT	£42.00	Hall Hire (3 months)	873
Speldhurst Rec Ground	£18,638.00	Grant re pavilion	874

Total **£22,543.31**

10/096 HIGHWAYS REPORT

- i) The clerk was meeting Steven Noad of Kent Highways on Thursday 8th July to discuss all outstanding items including KHS approval of works outside the old Watson Hall
- ii) All issues were to be discussed and full updates for next meeting.

10/008 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – Cllr Pendleton reported on a meeting of the working party that was held on Tuesday 29th June. The trial site had begun and updates had been requested and it was hoped that the site would have been ready for Councillors to view in time for the meeting. Unfortunately it was ready late today and has yet to be reviewed. Councillors will be advised of the trial website in time for the next Full Council meeting in August.

1825-3 ASHURST VILLAGE PLAY AREA – The situation was as follows – The Village Hall Trust could not insure the land because it could not prove ownership. An application will be made to Land Registry for adverse possession (having taken control of the land back in 1998) and if successful it will fence the area and ask the Council for a possible grant towards the cost. It was noted that there will be a significant amount budgeted for this play area that will be transferred into the contingency account.

2249 PARISH OFFICE – The document had been prepared and circulated stating the case for an office and it was **RESOLVED** by 11-1 to proceed with the project. It was also **AGREED** that a condensed version of the document should be published in the magazines once the Trustees had planning permission and funding in place. Cllr Mrs Hull stated that she had voted against the motion because she felt that the timing was wrong in the current financial

situation and that she was representing the views of Parishioners who had expressed concern about the expenditure of such a project.

10/065 DOG BINS IN ASHURST – The Parish Plan indicated that 28% were in favour of bins but 57% were against. Council **AGREED** that after consultation there was insufficient support for the project and that the onus was on the owners of the dogs to clear up after them.

10/097 GROOMBRIDGE NOTICE BOARD – The board was on order.

10/098 TWBC LDF Consultation Document – The document had been produced by TWBC and the consultation period was 14th June to 9th August 2010. It was decided that a working party consisting of Cllrs Mrs Hull, Brown and Langridge would produce a response on behalf of the Council for discussion at the next meeting.

10/099 COMMITTEES – It was decided that Environment was not a good fit with Parish Vision and after a discussion it was decided to form an Environment Committee. Cllr Brown volunteered to head the new committee and Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Hull would become members. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that Terms of Reference would be required.

10/100 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had previously circulated her report which included notes from the Parish Chairman's meeting with TWBC on 29th June 2010. The main points were

- A TWBC planning training day on 27th September (2pm-5pm)
- TWBC is considering withdrawing cardboard recycling points (LGRG Recreation Ground)
- Feedback is needed on how the core strategy can be given more rural impetus and also on transport strategy

Horsmonden would be in contact soon for advice on their Parish Plan.

A brief report on the Rusthall Parishing meeting was also included advising that there would be consultation on any boundary changes.

10/101 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i) Governance Committee – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the Audit Commission had written requesting a copy of our “financial risk assessment” and a reply had been sent advising them that we had no such document but all the checks were in place. The Governance Committee would write one in the next three months.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Mrs Podbury referred Members to the Minutes and had nothing further to add to them.
- iii) Parish Vision – Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that there had been a letter from ACRK in response to Cllr Mrs Jeffrey's letter and that another letter was to follow. She confirmed that most of the analysis was in place and that they had decided that there was no rush to respond to the questionnaires and there would be a full report by September or October. Cllr Langridge said that some things would be released to the magazines. Cllr Brown was concerned decisions were being made in a piecemeal fashion. The Chairman noted that no decisions regarding future Parish Council actions have yet been taken.
There was a good start regarding youth meetings and a possible youth bus.
- iv) Recreation Ground – Cllr Ellis asked whether non council members should be allowed on the recreation committee as per the suggestion from LGSC. Council **AGREED** that because the meetings are open to the public that there was no need to change the formal agreement.
Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Cory quotation for twice weekly emptying of bins from the recreation ground and a six weekly sweep with twice monthly sweeps in the autumn totalling £831.25. Council discussed the possibility of a container near the pavilion to store sports equipment and decided that it would be unsightly and reservations regarding planning permission were expressed. It was decided to ask the club for other solutions and ideas.
It was noted that Tate fencing had replaced the hinge on the gate to the playground with no charge.
- v) Footpaths – Cllr Milner had spoken to Gill Crouch of TWBC and was advised that no formal planning permission was required for the container. Two sleepers were required for the container to sit on and Council **AGREED** that the cost should come from contingency. Cllr Milner had replied to Cllr Davies directly about the footpath queries he had raised last month.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Brown had included a report on the meeting of June 9th.
- vii) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Wheeler said that the owner of the fourth brown field site had decided against allowing any LNH development. He noted that EHRA were changing the tenure agreements to reflect economic conditions.

10/102 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7th June 2010

The clerk confirmed that the only councillor who had not returned her Member's Interest form was Cllr Mrs Paulson-Ellis who had been absent from the last two meetings.
It was decided to contact the scouts regarding the bench outside the Church.

10/103 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i) Letter from Sevenoaks District Council – LDF Core Strategy Submission
- ii) "Transition" Tunbridge Wells – an eco newsletter (Environment)
- iii) ACRK – Rural Newsletter
- iv) S&C Slatter Ltd – Sport and Play Company leaflet
- v) Wicksteed playscapes – mini brochure
- vi) Kalev lamps brochure
- vii) KCC – Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Publication of the Scoping for the Sustainability/Strategic Environmental Assessment dated 11th June (Environment)
- viii) Woodland Trust – Annual Review
- ix) CAB AGM 2nd July
- x) Letter via email from Nick Chard re Integrated Transport Programme 2010/11

10/104 DIARY DATES

- i) Thursday 8th July – clerk to meet Martyn Lawrence re trees Roopers
- ii) Thursday 8th July – clerk to meet KHS re land outside Watson Hall
- iii) Thursday 8th July - Planning meeting Ashurst VH 7.30pm
- iv) July 11th – 25th Cllr Podbury holiday
- v) July 13th – 16th – Chairman attending NALC Leadership course in Coventry
- vi) July 21st – August 2nd – Chairman holiday
- vii) July 25th – Sept 6th Barden Road – Furzeffeld Avenue – road closed for gas works
- viii) July 28th – July 30th Ashurst Hill Road closed
- ix) **Monday 2nd August – Full Council meeting Langton Green Village Hall**

10/105 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – Cllr Langridge – there was a vacancy on the Standards Committee; Langton Fete went very well; Cllr Stanyer is helping regarding parking at Langton Church.
Cllr Brown was considering applying for the vacancy on the Standards Committee.
Cllr Mrs Waters – Speldhurst School was starting a poster campaign about traffic; This is the first year that no children from Speldhurst will be going to TWGGS or The Weald grammar schools; overgrown hedges are still a problem.

Cllr Mrs Hull noted that The Courier had quoted TWBC stating that its plans regarding the Town Hall and a possible move to Hawkenbury would be transparently discussed later in the year.

Cllr Milner said that the Marchiennes twinning was in an unsatisfactory limbo and he would investigate the situation and report.

Cllr Pendleton reported that there had been a serious crash on Groombridge Hill yesterday involving a motorcycle and a car.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.00pm

CHAIRMAN