



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

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at 7.30pm  
IN THE MAIN HALL, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Turner, Woodward

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were 24 members of the public present

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Pendleton (previous engagement) Borough Cllr Jukes

**12/280 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:** There were none

**12/281 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Cllrs Mrs Horne, Hull and Podbury all declared that they had been spoken to by residents on local needs housing.

**12/282 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:**

Mr Horne said he was perplexed why the proposal was still being debated. He spoke of a number of reasons why he felt the proposal should not be taken further including Green Belt, highways, hedge and finance issues. He was concerned at loss of control if TWBC were to take over.

Mrs Smith-Tilley agreed that there was concern that SPC will relinquish control of the project; she referred to the notes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> July and reiterated that a Parish Poll would be called if the project was to go ahead. She wondered whether the applicants need to live in Speldhurst or just want to.

Mrs Ponsford asked why adjacent areas could not be used for the housing.

Roy Langham referred to his email of December 2011 and read the issues that he had raised.

Mr Larkin said he had brought up the concerns of the financial situation of ERHA at earlier meetings.

Mr Fitzgerald wondered what sort of legacy we would leave and whether it would be a Town Council in years to come.

**12/283 CONSIDERATION OF THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN SPELDHURST:**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys summarised recent events since ERHA had pulled out of the project.

There was a lengthy discussion by Cllrs on the subject and especially whether Town & Country was the right fit as Registered Social Landlord (RSL) to take over from ERHA. There was discussion on the Council's inability to meet need if it was decided to veto this project. Cllrs also agreed that highways are an unresolved issue and any new RSL was unlikely to do anything to improve the problem.

Cllrs agreed that now was not the time to proceed further with the development of site 15 because of the issues discussed and that the LNH issue should be investigated by the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group (NPWG) which was in the early stages of being established.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to TWBC advising them that they need not pursue a search for an alternative RSL for site 15 by 11 votes in favour with one abstention.

**12/284 NEXT STEPS**

**The Clerk will write to TWBC**

**NPWG to progress the issue within the framework of the plan.**

**12/285 TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BROADBAND WORKING GROUP WITH REGARD TO THE DEFRA BID:**

Cllr Woodward had prepared a paper on the issues and this had been circulated prior to the meeting. With some issues having been clarified over the weekend the Council was not required to make decision on direction at this meeting.

Given the complexity of the issues it was decided to wait for a presentation from the BBWG of their recommendation and if necessary an ex-Full Council meeting would then be called.

**12/286 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

There were none

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.13pm

CHAIRMAN