



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 11th JUNE 2012 at 7.30pm
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mrs Horne (prior engagement)

12/213 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST: Cllr Parker – 12/224 iii) he is Chairman of the Langton Green Rural Society (LGRS)

12/214 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllrs Mrs Hull had been spoken to by residents about highways, LNH and tree issues.

12/215 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **14th May 2012**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

12/216 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that Borough Cllr Bill Hills had resigned from his cabinet position running Planning & Transport. KCC were presently giving serious consideration to the provision of libraries. TWBC is to invest in improving their website.

12/217 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:

There were no members of the public present

12/218 FINALISING OF COMMITTEES:

An up to date list was circulated. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that Cllr Mrs Soyke had been advised to step down from the Planning Committee because she was on TWBC Western Area Planning. This leaves the committee one short and she asked Cllrs to consider whether they could find time to join it.

12/219 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a meeting had been held on May 21st and the minutes had been circulated – there were no questions.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that it had been decided that future costs of advertising for public meetings would be considered an administrative cost and would not require email authorisation.
- iii) At the Finance Committee meeting it had been agreed that a letter be written to residents asking if they would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost of the planting now that the grant application had failed.

Cllr Mrs Hull said that it was part of the Parish Vision aim to support tree planting programmes and that it was KCC land in Furzefield Avenue and it should be the Utility Companies who should be asked to contribute. She added that it would be setting a precedent to ask residents to contribute to improvement schemes such as this.

After much discussion Cllrs were asked if residents should be asked to contribute and it was **AGREED** to write to residents asking for a contribution of £20 per household (or whatever they can afford) and Cllr Milner would help word the letter.

12/220 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Langridge

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
Shaw & Sons	389	35.40	Stationery
Rymans	390	18.59	Stationery
RIP Cleaning Services	391	172.80	Canine refuse bins
V J Coomber	392	3,639.43	Office Building completion
M R Lawrence	393	140.00	Mowing Langton Green
Tate Fencing	394	268.80	Posts – Furzefield Ave
Mr L Cooper	395	100.00	Groundsman's duties
M R Lawrence	396	180.00	Mowing Roopers
HMRC	397	699.68	Tax & NI
C May	398	1,355.57	Salary
C May	399	53.65	Expenses
M Flemington	400	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	401	59.50	Expenses
TWBC	DD	53.00	Non-Domestic Rates

Total payments **£7,399.83**

12/221 PROPOSAL BY THE AUDIT COMMISSION FOR LITTLEJOHN LLP TO AUDIT THE ANNUAL RETURN FROM SEPTEMBER 2012 ONWARDS:

The Council was informed that the cost of the audit would be lower than at present. This was **AGREED**

12/222 HIGHWAYS REPORT:

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the next Committee meeting will be held on Friday June 15th and a full report would be made at the next meeting. She said re-lining had been completed in Speldhurst and at Heathgate corner in Langton. She mentioned that overgrown hedges were still a problem in Speldhurst. The Clerk reported that John Davies had advised him that the kerbing in Peshurst Road would be replaced with traditional granite kerbing in due course.

12/223 OFFICE DIRECTIONAL SIGN:

The Council had been advised that the cost of having a sign outside the Recreation Ground was to be £950 - £500 higher than previously approved. The quotation had come from Jacobs who had been recommended by KCC. There was much discussion and it was agreed to defer any decision until July to give the Clerk time to investigate other quotations. Cllr Langridge would assist.

12/224 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that nothing had been received from the Solicitors regarding the surrender of the additional car park lease to SPC.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a number of questions had been received from the LGSC's architect regarding the existing pavilion – some of the answers were known and had been responded to but there were a number of questions which remained unanswered.
- iii) Cllr Parker said the decision to plant a tree on the Recreation Ground in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee had been agreed at the Langton Green Rural Society's AGM (subject to permission from the Parish Council). Cllr Parker left the room. Council discussed the issue and **AGREED** to the request subject to type and location. Cllr Parker re-joined the meeting.

12/225 LOCAL SCHOOLS:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she and the Clerk had been to look at appropriate trophies. She said that Speldhurst Primary School had advised their presentation date and Cllr Milner would present the trophy for the Diamond Jubilee Award for Olympic Spirit on her behalf because she was on holiday. She was still waiting to hear from Langton Green Primary School.

No further progress had been made regarding the monitors for the electricity meters.

12/226 DIAMOND JUBILEE:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that the Diamond Jubilee tree was planted in the Pocket Park, Speldhurst on Friday 1st June at 6.30pm by Peter Blackwell, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent. She thanked the Cllrs for taking the time to attend. Cllr Milner thanked Cllr Turner for putting the plaque on a more permanent base of stone.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said that the celebrations in Ashurst & Blackham had been a total success thanks to the grants from SPC and TWBC.

Each grant recipient would be requested to supply pictures and a short synopsis of their event.

12/227 BROADBAND:

Cllr Woodward had submitted a detailed report and asked that the Council ratify the working group's decision to keep the project separate from the other (three) DEFRA-endorsed projects in Kent. This was **AGREED**. He reported that there was a need to establish a legal entity to work with DEFRA and Mr Simon Jeffreys had agreed to work as a consultant advising on legal matters.

The final application is due by the end of September and meetings are going on with Leigh, Chiddingstone and Hever Parish Councils as well as Penshurst earlier that evening. The group had support from Sevenoaks District Council and work was being done to strengthen the case for the grant.

There are several community events planned for the next month including

- i. Speldhurst Village Hall – 7 pm Friday 15th June
- ii. Speldhurst Village Fete – Saturday 23rd June
- iii. Ashurst Village Hall – 7pm Monday 25th June
- iv. Langton Green Village Hall – 7pm Tuesday 26th June
- v. Langton Green Village Fete – Saturday July 7th

Cllr Woodward asked that costs totalling £400 be approved from the budget for a banner, team T-shirts, light refreshments and paper. This was **AGREED**.

12/228 NEWSLETTER:

Cllr Langridge agreed to co-ordinate the newsletter once again. The lead article would be the Diamond Jubilee with the BBWG submitting a piece for inclusion. Other subjects were footpaths and the current LNH situation.

12/229 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to the note of the meeting with Town & Country and added that Cllr Milner would be attending the Chairman's meeting on June 12th at TWBC as she was on holiday.

12/230 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Pendleton said that there was nothing to report.

- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge referred to the application from KCC to refurbish and upgrade the sewage works in Broom Lane. It would take 41 weeks to complete and has the potential to cause serious disruption to Langton Green. The committee also had concerns about the lane and the wear and tear. The comments had been relayed to Cllr John Davies. He also mentioned that Barden Furnace Farm was up for sale.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner referred to the tree report by Treework and comments by Mr Docker, TWBC Tree Officer. Some urgent work was necessary and **the Clerk would obtain some quotes.**
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported that the bad weather has continued to slow down footpaths work recently. The letter to residents who live adjacent to footpaths has been prepared and he will co-ordinate with Cllr Langridge regarding delivery. Cllr Langridge was thanked for his work to reduce the weeds along the footpath from Mercers to Farnham Lane which had been reported by a resident.
- v) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull referred to her report.
- vi) Local Needs Housing – TWBC will be considering the matter and a meeting will be set up in July with SPC. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys has sent a list of preferred dates and Cllr Woodward would let the Clerk know when he is available.
- vii) Neighbourhood Planning Working Group – an effort to recruit members of the public was needed. **The Clerk would organise a starter meeting.** Cllr Woodward said that TWBC are going to review the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). He would check with Mr Kehoe to find out when the exercise is due to take place.
- viii) Environment – A meeting is to be held on Wednesday 13th June.

12/231 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14th MAY 2012:

The current situation regarding the flooding in Leggs Lane was discussed. It is on the agenda of the Highways meeting on June 15th.

12/232 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Arbor Age Magazine May/June 2012
2. ACRK Rural News Issue 116
3. Undated letter from Allen Scott Landscape Architects regarding Speldhurst play area – have responded to say that it is Speldhurst Recreation Ground not Parish Council
4. Littlethorpe brochure and price list of bus shelters
5. Grafton landscaping advertising postcard
6. Email dated 3rd May from KALC with their draft responses to KCC on the Draft Freight Action Plan and Kent Forum Housing Strategy Refresh
7. Undated letter from East Sussex County Council regarding revision of the Statement of Community Involvement - Waste and Minerals DF
8. Letter dated 27th May from KCC Planning and Environment giving Formal Notice of the preparation of Kent County Council's Minerals and Waste local Plan – consultation closes 23rd July 2012
9. Email dated 28th May from Swanley Town Council with NALC Policy Consultation on Funding Arrangements for Localising Support for Council Tax
10. CPRE Kent Voice Spring/Summer 2012 Magazine
11. Email correspondence with Guy Lambert of Langton Green Sports Club regarding the Container at LGRG Car Park
12. Email dated 30th May from Kent County Council regarding Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation
13. Letter dated June 2012 from The Woodland Trust asking for consideration of membership renewal
14. Letter dated 7th June from South East Water regarding the current water resources situation
15. Advertising postcard from Applause Outdoors 2012
16. Email dated 1st June from East Sussex County Council regarding South Downs and Brighton and Hove Waste and Minerals Plan (Item on page 1 refers)

12/233 DIARY DATES:

Wednesday 13th June – SLCC Kent Meeting

Wednesday 13th June – Environment Working Group Meeting – Parish Council Office

Friday 15th June – Highways Meeting – Parish Council Office – **10.00am**

Monday 18th June – Planning Meeting – Parish Council Office

Monday 2nd July – **Full Council Meeting** – Langton Green Village Hall, Committee Room

12/234 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Parker said that he had been advised that the Football Fiesta had been cancelled and that they were trying to re-arrange it for the weekend 30th June/1st July. **The Clerk would contact them** to confirm and call an extraordinary Full Council meeting before the Planning meeting next Monday to consider any request.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said that some gardens in Ashurst would be open on Saturday June 30th, in the afternoon, with Cream Teas available, in aid of the church. There would also be an Art Exhibition in the village hall.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.30pm

CHAIRMAN