



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 5th December 2016 at 7.00pm
IN THE PALMER ROOM, Langton Green Village Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Jeffreys, Milner, Mercieca, Kerby, Allen, Parker, Cllr Mrs Price (7.15pm), Cllr Mrs Horne (7.20pm) and Cllr Mrs Podbury (7.45pm)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk, Mrs K Plunkett – Assistant Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer, Borough Councillor David Jukes (7.20pm)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present, Marianne Buckley (7.30pm) and Mr James McInroy.

16/239 TO ENQUIRE IF ANYONE PRESENT INTENDS TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH AND/OR RECORD THE MEETING: No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

16/240 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Turner (prior engagement)

16/241 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

16/242 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

16/243 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 7th November 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was also **RESOLVED** to approve the Opening Meeting Notes.

16/244 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer said he had visited Wiesbaden (a town in Germany that is twinned with Tunbridge Wells) and enjoyed 2 full days of activities and meetings. He reported the town is planning to build a €200m convention hall. A full programme of exchanges is being organised including choirs, schools and a Music Academy visit to Tunbridge Wells.

16/245 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no matters for discussion

16/246 STAFFING MATTERS: The Clerk confirmed the office opening hours during the Christmas period. The office is to close at lunchtime on Friday 23rd December and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2017. Some work will be necessary preparing for the Full Council meeting in January but it gives the Clerks flexibility during this period.

16/247 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- a) There has not been a Finance Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) There have not been any budget virements since the Finance Meeting.
- c) There have been four interim payments since the finance meeting - £18.44 stationery; £180.00 advertising for Pavilion licence, £91.19 new minute book and £484.98 dishwasher for pavilion all paid on the MasterCard.
- d) Payments made by the Clerk under his delegated authority – as above with the exception of the payment of £484.98 which was made under joint authority of the Chairman and the Clerk.

16/248 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Allen.To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
RIP Cleaning Services	MT914	172.80	Canine waste disposal - Oct
Dylan Smith Landscape Services	MT915	350.00	The Boundary maintenance
M R Lawrence	MT916	865.00	Parish maintenance
KALC	MT917	72.00	Councillor training
Alison Stevens	MT918	136.50	Internal Audit
Chris Allen	MT919	34.00	Pavilion expenses
Unipar Services LLP	MT920	2574.00	New Suresight Equipment
TWBC	MT921	100.00	Mayor's Toy Appeal
Mr L Cooper	MT922	10.20	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT923	10.35	Travel expenses
K Plunkett	MT924	28.35	Travel expenses
C May	MT925	19.72	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT926	861.81	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT930	452.00	Groundsman
Mr L Cooper	MT931	156.00	Additional work - pocket park
Commercial Services Trading	MT932	4139.02	Subsidence and Sets
RIP Cleaning Services	MT933	172.80	Canine Refuse collection Nov
K Plunkett	MT927	604.44	Salary
C May	MT928	1304.01	Salary
Total payments		12,093.00	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

16/249 HIGHWAYS: A meeting was held on 21st November and the minutes had been circulated.

- Cllr Milner reported that KCC Highways have quoted a total cost of approximately £11k for the 7 gateways. The Committee suggested that 3 or 4 gateways should initially be installed to see if this has any impact on reducing the speed of traffic approaching the villages and to see what they look like. It was **RESOLVED** that up to 4 gateways be installed at an approximate cost of £6k.
- Cllr Milner reported that the ISS at Groombridge had been taken down with no prior warning, because it was irreparable. The Clerk suggested that another mobile SID be purchased, possibly without in-built statics and that this would be discussed at the next meeting.
- Cllr Milner said that it was agreed at the Highways meeting that Councillors or committee members could put a notice onto any cars parked in an offending way as long as a photo was taken of the offence at the time and sent to the Clerk.
- The Clerk advised that he has a meeting planned with Highways on 8th December regarding 20 mph speed limits and that he will report back on this at the next Full Council meeting.

16/250 BOUNDARY CHANGE: There was no progress to report. The meeting had been postponed and rescheduled for next week. Cllr Barrington-Johnson will report back at the next Full Council meeting.

16/251 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Pavilion Management committee. Cllr Mrs Lyle reported that in addition to the £156 income from the Pavilion noted in the report, a further £800 approximately is also due from the café.
- b) Trustee - Crispin Owen had stepped down as Trustee and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Lyle replace him.
- c) Wheelchair access – it was acknowledged that wheelchair access to the pavilion will be needed eventually but in the short term it was **RESOLVED** to join the path to the rear of the pavilion to allow access.
- d) **RESOLVED** to install the necessary telephone/broadband line.
- e) **RESOLVED** to install a cooker at approximately £650
- f) Sanitary bins: Cllr Mrs Lyle has obtained three quotes. A fourth quote from Initial Services advised that as a Government entity, SPC is entitled to a 90% reduction in the servicing costs making this by far the cheapest quote. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Initial Services to carry out the servicing and waste disposal at a cost of £40 annually.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to allow the use of the LGRG by the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company on Wednesday June 21st 2017.

16/252 PARISH PLAN: It was **RESOLVED** to look at the plan and implementation in more detail in January 2017.

16/253 KALC Community Awards Scheme

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the scheme for 2017. Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys and Milner had a candidate in mind. The nomination would be agreed at the next Full Council meeting, ahead of the deadline on 27 January.

16/254 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Cllr Barrington-Johnson welcomed Mrs Harman to her first Full Council meeting as Assistant Clerk.
- Cllr Barrington-Johnson along with the Clerk had attended meetings with both the Head Teachers of Speldhurst and Langton Green Primary Schools. The meetings were positive and both schools are keen to pursue the 20mph speed limit outside their schools.
- A request has been received from a member of public asking for SPC to assist a family in Ashurst get their child into Langton School. It was **RESOLVED** to lobby KCC. David Jukes suggested contacting Roger Gough.
- Cllr Milner advised that an advert had been placed in Langton Life to recruit a Lollipop person for Langton School.

16/255 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Minutes of the meeting on 14th November had been distributed.
 - Cllr Parker noted Alison Stevens's audit report had been completed and circulated.
 - A decision would be taken at the next meeting regarding the Groundsman's employment.
- b) **Planning** – A meeting was held on Wednesday 16th November and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 14th December. Cllr Mrs Horne advised that the Planning section of the Parish Plan is in progress.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a meeting was held on 24th October. The next meeting is on the 12th December.
- d) **Air Traffic** – A meeting was held on 9th November. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that the main points from the minutes are to consider a response from Gatwick to the independent review and consider thoughts on runway capacity. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the reviewed Terms of Reference.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said an email had also been received from a Speldhurst resident regarding the removal of fallen trees which would be looked into and actioned.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – A report by Cllr Barrington-Johnson was circulated following a recent meeting. It was suggested Kelvin Hinton is invited to a meeting.

- g) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Price said that the invitations to the workshop, which is to be held on Thursday 19th January in the Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall will go out next week. Cllr Mrs Soyke suggested a representative from High Weald be invited. Cllr Mrs Price will try to contact him.

16/256 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7th November 2016: No other matters.

16/257 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Letter from Relate thanking SPC for the £250 grant.
2. Connected magazine from NHS, winter edition.
3. Letter from the Royal British Legion, thanking SPC for the £125 donation.
4. Email from David Crundwell, expressing thanks for the cheque re St John's churchyard and asking for a grant to upkeep the churchyard next year.
5. Letter from Greg Clark, thanking the Chairman for his letter regarding council tax referendum principles.
6. Letter from EDF Energy notifying of an increase in electricity prices.
7. Newsletter from Hospice in the Weald, winter 2016 edition.
8. Letter from Tidy Services expressing interest in future tenders for landscaping, maintenance and cleaning contracts.
9. Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice and Field Work publications – winter 2016.
10. KALC The Parish News – November 2016 edition.

16/258 DIARY DATES:

Monday 12th – Amenities Meeting

Wednesday 14th – Planning Meeting

Office closed midday 23rd Dec and opening again on Tues 3rd Jan 2017

Thursday 5th Jan – Finance Meeting

Monday 9th Jan – Full Council Meeting, Ashurst Village Hall

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

16/259 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Kerby said that if progress is made linking parishes Withyham and Speldhurst make a good fit. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that she knows the Chairman of Withyham Council, which could be a useful contact.

Cllr Mrs Lyle raised the subject of the removal of the payphones by BT. Cllr Mrs Horne advised that this had been considered by the Planning Committee. It was agreed that whilst it is recognised that any of the few calls made on the phones in the last year could have been emergencies, their removal was probably justified.

Cllr Kerby said that he has received feedback from the Old Groombridge Conservation Group regarding the installation of the granite stones – most was positive but some are finding it difficult to park. It was agreed that the main priority is that the stones prevent the erosion of The Green.

The Clerk said January would be a busy month and asked everyone to think about ideas for the newsletter.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said that new chevrons had replaced the damaged ones at Stone Cross. She said the hedgerow on the A264 still needs cutting back .

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that a good job had been done of tidying up the pond area at The Boundary.

Cllr Mrs Price reported a problem with the water supply in parts of Groombridge.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Chairman