



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 Tuesday 17th July 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Owen, Turner and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

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

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Milner was unanimously re-elected Chairman

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Parker (prior appointment)

3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** There were none

4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.

5. **The Minutes of 3rd May 2012** were signed as a correct record.

6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence**

There were two items of correspondence.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident of Roopers concerned that a cherry tree in pocket park had many dead branches and is going to cause a problem. The matter was discussed and it was recommended that a tree survey be carried out of the trees in Speldhurst on Council land. **The cost would be referred to the Finance Committee.**

The Langton Green Primary School had written regarding trees bordering their land. See minute 11ii).

Cllr Owen asked if the resident of Stone Cottage had been contacted regarding the grass outside her cottage. **The Clerk has spoken to her but a meeting was to be arranged with the Chairman**

7. **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.

8. Financial Review

The figures were reviewed. It was noted that the Broadband budget had been transferred to a separate section.

The Clerk explained that the over spend on Ashurst Maintenance budget (4200) was because the payment for the new flagpole had been allocated to this budget item. TWBC was due to reimburse 50% of the cost (£400) and the **balance would come from the contingency account**. A reimbursement from TWBC for £1,132 was also expected which would reduce current expenditure from 4250 Land – Watson Hall area.

Income from LGCT was down due to complications regarding the new lease and this would be reviewed by the Clerk and the Finance Chairman in August when the lease would be summarised for all members..

9. Next Phase of Enhancement on The Green

- i. The Clerk said that the next improvement that was due was the extension of the gravel footpath from Stone Cottage to the end of the green by the Langton Road. The work was included in the budget and it was proposed that a letter be sent to residents asking them if they would like to take the opportunity to upgrade any land belonging to them at the same time, at their cost. He had circulated a draft letter and there were some suggested changes. **The Clerk would re-circulate a new draft.**
- ii. A new notice board is planned on this land to replace the one outside the old post office. The cost is in the budget and residents would be advised of this at the same time.
- iii. **The Clerk would contact the Post Office** to see if a new post box was still required and suggest the area at the Village Hall rather than The Green.

10. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. There has been no progress report from the LGSC
- ii. Car Park – parking. There has been no report from the solicitor regarding a new lease for the extension car park to be transferred back to Parish Council ownership. **Clerk to contact solicitor.**
- iii. An event on LGRG – the issue of charging users for using the recreation ground was discussed. It was considered that non-profit community events should remain free but events where the individual users were charged by an organising group should be charged. It was recommended that an email system be established where members of the Amenities Committee would be able to give approval (or not) to an event. A charge of £20 per day depending on the event was suggested. **To be referred to Full Council for a decision.**
- iv. Maintenance of Grounds – the posts on the LGRG had grass and weeds growing and required either strimming or the use of weed killer. Cllr Milner would look in to a suitable child/animal friendly weed killer. It was also suggested that some sort of spraying apparatus be purchased which could be used for the twittens. **The Clerk will investigate and make a recommendation.**
- v. Dog waste bags – the Clerk said he was persevering with the new bags and had cut away some of the rubber from one dispenser to see if the flow of bags improved. He would report on progress. The Clerk had previously circulated a sign with the Council logo on asking dog owners to “clean it up!” The committee approved it and **the Clerk would refer it to the Finance Committee for consideration of the printing cost.**
- vi. Ownership sign – the Clerk had circulated a proposed ownership sign and the committee decided to slightly change the wording. **He was asked to progress the matter.**
- vii. Sign re icy/snowy weather – this would be included in the policy for these conditions that is being prepared by the Governance committee.
- viii. Re-cycling – there was nothing further to report.

- ix. Container – the laurel bushes had been planted but some earth was still to be moved. The Groundsman would be asked to help and **the Clerk would contact him.**

11. Trees in the Parish

- i. The Clerk had received Dan Docker's (TWBC Tree Officer) report – he had amended some of the time scales but overall the tree report was upheld. Two more quotations had been sought for the work considered urgent and overall Treework had come in as the most competitively priced. **The Clerk was requested to employ Treework on this occasion.**
- ii. Refer Correspondence –Langton Green Primary School having had a tree survey completed requested that work be done on two trees bordering the school grounds. The trees had been listed by Treework as up to one year but that was without access to the school grounds. It was recommended by the committee to bring forward the works which would be completed by Treework during the school holidays and the Clerk would request access to the school grounds. **To be referred to the Finance Committee.**
- iii. The Big Tree Plant – letters have gone out to 55 households. So far 10 replies had been received of which 90% were positive. **The Clerk would start obtaining a firm quotation for the works.**

12. Footpaths

Letters had gone out to residents whose houses bordered footpaths encouraging people to keep their bit clear. This was repeated in all village magazines.

13. Playground Inspection

The Groundsman, both Clerks and Cllr Hemming attended a half day training session and had a certificate of attendance which qualified them to undertake weekly inspections on a weekly or daily basis. Next year, upon expiry of the contract with KCS, the inspections would be carried out by the Groundsman. The others would cover during illness or holidays.

14. Asset Register

Work is in progress.

15. Items for Information

Cllr Owen reported that WT109 was overgrown. Cllr Milner would attend.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman