



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

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**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2019 AT 7.30PM IN SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Price, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Pate and Turner

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs C Barrett – Administrative Assistant

**IN ATTENDANCE** County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Stanyer

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

**19/109 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.

**19/110 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Round (prior engagement), Cllr Rowe (family matters) and Mrs K Harman (prior engagement)

**19/111 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**19/112 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**19/113 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting on **13<sup>th</sup> May 2019** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**18/114: CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR** Mr Ben Scarbrough was co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Scarbrough then took his seat with Councillors and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. The Chairman thanked Cllr Scarbrough for stepping forward, welcomed him to the council and said that he hoped he would find the role interesting and enjoyable. All thirteen Councillor seats have now been filled.

**19/115: BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

Cllr Stanyer said that the elected members and newly formed committees were settling in following the recent elections. He is a board member of Trinity Theatre and Arts Complex and he was pleased to report that the theatre had received the Muddy Stiletto award for best theatre in Kent.

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that she had become Chairman of Tunbridge Wells in Bloom.

Cllr McInroy said that charges for building waste at the Household Waste Recycling Centre had taken affect today. There was discussion about an increased risk of fly tipping within the parish. It was agreed that this should be monitored, and any instances of fly tipping reported to TWBC, who pass the data onto KCC for collating. It was also decided to highlight fly tipping in the next newsletter.

Cllr McNroy said that the transport committee had agreed to increase the minimum average speed from 24mph to 28mph in areas wishing to qualify for a 20-mph speed limit. There was discussion about how to enforce a 20-mph speed limit with reduced policing. The clerk reported that there are now enough volunteers in Speldhurst, Langton and Groombridge to reinstate Speedwatch.

Cllr McNroy also reported that a recent KCC meeting had concluded that a motion to be totally carbon neutral by 2030 was unrealistic. A second motion was then passed which pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, while recognising the emergency in line with government guidelines.

#### **19/116: PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:**

Jenny Cooper introduced herself as the new Speldhurst Village Hall administrator and thanked the council for helping maximise profits at Speldhurst Village Pram Race, which raised approximately £2,000, which will be split between the primary school, village hall and recreation ground.

She would like to drive the village hall forward with a community focus in her role as administrator, and asked if the recommendation in the Parish Plan for a small business forum had progressed. Cllr Barrington-Johnson replied that it hadn't. The Clerk recommended approaching the business park to see if a forum would be viable, although it was thought that a networking initiative had previously been tried in Speldhurst with mixed results. She asked about a charge point for electric cars in Speldhurst village hall car park. There was discussion about the implications of using a parking space for this and how the electricity would be paid for by users. It was suggested that Jenny approach the George & Dragon Pub to see if they would be open to hosting a charge point. She asked if the council would be interested in endorsing a repair cafe. This would take place three times a year, with volunteers on hand to mend various items brought by members of the public. Cllr Barrington-Johnson recommended that this venture should go ahead unilaterally, but that SPC would willingly publicise it.

#### **19/117: FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last full council meeting.
- b) **Budget virements:** None. The committee has received its six-monthly portion of the precept.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting:** These are listed in the clerk's report and include catering equipment to make Langton Green Pavilion safer and more efficient for users. Mastercard: £9.00 charges; £5.00\* security bits; £905.60 Pavilion new equipment; £28.98\* rodent control and £4.48\* maintenance. Unity bank: £540.91 transfer to Mastercard and £60.00 refund of pavilion booking.
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority:** are marked with an asterisk

#### **19/118: ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr Turner

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

<b>Payee Name</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Paul Cheater	MT1570	112.00	Pavilion Cleaning
Prestige Plumbing Services	MT1571	318.00	Pavilion – outside tap etc
Craigdene Ltd	MT1572	50.00	Consultancy Playground
Speldhurst News	MT1573	14.00	Subscription
Viking Direct	MT1574	104.32	Stationery
Dyno-Rod	MT1575	156.00	Pavilion – drains
Catherine Barrett	MT1576	10.80	Travel expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1577	35.39	Expenses
Mr R Lawrence	MT1584	485.00	Strimming and hedges
Castle Water	DD	262.87	Castle Water
EDF Energy	DD	324.00	Pavilion Electricity
BT PLC	DD	431.48	Telephone and Broadband
N.E.S.T Pension Scheme	MT1578	115.97	Pension Contributions
C May	MT1579	1,566.87	Salary

Kate Harman	MT1580	749.67	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1581	640.88	Salary
Catherine Barrett	MT1582	406.90	Salary
HMRC	MT1583	2,377.46	Tax & NI Quarter

**Total: 8,161.61**

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

**19/119: LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

- a) The alarm code for pavilion users had been changed.
- b) There was an ongoing issue with drain blockage and some expense in having them cleared. There had already been one CCTV report and additional quotes had requested. Cllr Mrs Lyle said it was important to invest in fixing the problem. Cllr Ellery agreed he would send contact details for a company he knew were used by Southern Water.
- c) Langton Green Football Fiesta had gone well, and in more good news, LGCSA had now been awarded just over ~~£90m~~ **£90k** by the football foundation - 76% of the funds needed for their drainage project. Chris Allen will soon receive a schedule of timelines for the work in order to make the pitch playable by Winter. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe stressed the importance of publicising that the recreation ground will be out of order to users, and the need to liaise with all LGSA stakeholders, for example the cricket team, who will need to find a temporary pitch. Cllr Mrs Lyle said there would be weekly updates with the contractor. It was agreed that any implications of works in progress would be highlighted in the next SPC newsletter.
- d) Cllr Mrs Lyle said that quotes are currently being looked at from decorators, as the pavilion will require redecorating in August, when the café will close for a month.

**19/120: COMMITTEES** – The following amendments and additions were made:

- a) It was agreed that Cllr Ellery would be the council representative at Speldhurst Village Hall. He would also take over from Cllr Mrs Podbury as council representative to the Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee.
- b) Cllr Scarborough would sit on Planning and Highways committees, together with the Environment Working group.

**19/121: NEWSLETTER** – The following were discussed

- a) It was agreed that any Councillor with an idea for inclusion in the next newsletter should write the content themselves.
- b) Fly tipping, Garden waste early bird discount charges, Air Traffic, footpath volunteers and the Langton Green Recreation Ground drainage project were all agreed as themes and the Clerk recommended that the newsletter be ready in early July, ahead these events.

**19/122: TWBC LOVE WHERE WE LOVE AWARDS** – the following nominations were made

- a) The Clerk nominated LGCSA for its contribution to the community.
- b) Cllr Scarbrough asked if anything would be named in memory of Mike Bender. It was agreed that a plaque would be fitting and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe agreed to raise this with Chris Allen.

**19/123: TO CONSIDER TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENTS'S PLANS:** The Chairman declared this item as confidential to be discussed after the meeting was closed.

**19/124:CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman said that some Councillors were not checking their tablets and asked that all Councillors make time to regularly check their emails and respond in a timely manner. He

understood that this was a transition phase but said that Councillors needed to establish a discipline of regular checking and responding to correspondence.

**19/125: COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** - Nothing to report.
- b) **Planning – There was a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May.** Following an issue with applicants not complying to an approved planning application, it had been agreed that a compliance item would be added to the agenda at all future meetings. Cllr Barrington-Johnson has drafted a letter to TWBC for review at the next planning committee meeting. The Committee will adopt a policy of working with the TWBC planning officers to keep compliance with approved planning applications under continual review going forward.
- c) **Highways** - A meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June.
- d) **Amenities** - A meeting will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.
- e) **Air Traffic** - There is no meeting planned but the committee will respond to the 2050 aviation consultation later this month. It was suggested that the next newsletter include a mention of where to complain about noisy, low flying aircraft, which had increased recently.
- f) **Footpaths** - Cllr Milner will undertake further work in the coming weeks. Cllr Mrs Podbury had received thanks and an offer of help from her neighbour. A request for more volunteers will go in the next newsletter.
- g) **KALC** - A KALC meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked for representatives to attend in his absence.
- h) **Environment Working Group** - A meeting will be scheduled soon. Cllr Mrs Price asked for suggestions for a three-and-a-half-mile route for the next Parish walk which she proposed be held in mid-July.

**19/126: OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019:** there were none.

**19/127: CLERK'S REPORT:** The following was reported:

The clerk requested that Councillors notify him in advance when they are due to go on holiday.

The Clerk recommended that all Councillors have SPC emails installed on their mobile phones to help with the transition period of becoming used to using their tablets. There was discussion about the GDPR implications of doing this and it was concluded that since there were no attachments, email would be compliant.

The Clerk reported that the Trustees at LGVH have permission to move from a charitable trust to a CIO.

The Clerk requested that Councillors email him with details of any potholes for repair. He also confirmed that reporting dead animals should go to KCC.

**19/128: DIARY DATES:**

Amenities meeting Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am.

Highways meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

Planning meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

Rude Mechanical Theatre Company performance at Langton Green Recreation Ground, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

KALC: Training Day at Langton Green Village Hall, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

**Speldhurst Fete Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Langton Green Fete Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**19/129: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

- Cllr Mrs Price asked for the information she had forwarded about the old parish to go on the website.
- Cllr Ellery asked if there was any progress on speed watch. The Clerk said this was in progress, with sufficient volunteers now in place.
- Cllr Milner had been approached by Speldhurst residents about the Thai Food Takeaway van which had arrived without warning outside Speldhurst Primary School the previous Thursday. It was agreed that Cllr Milner would monitor the situation to see if they came back.

- Cllr Pate resaid he is a member of the local environmental focus group, the Valley Conservation Society, and they would like to address Full Council at the next meeting. It was agreed this should be encouraged.
- Cllr Scarbrough asked if Zebra crossings are SPC responsibility. Cllr Barrington-Johnson informed him this is a Kent Highways responsibility. Cllr Scarborough would like to see a crossing between the village hall and the twitten in Langton Green. After discussion about the difficulty of implementing crossings on non-major roads, it was agreed that Cllr Scarborough would take this forward independently.

Chairman

**COMMITTEES 2019-20<sup>1</sup>**  
**Chairmen in bold**

<b>Committee</b>		<b>Committee</b>	
<b>Finance</b>		<b>Planning</b>	
<b>Katrina Lyle</b>		<b>Judy Price</b>	
Richard Ellery V-C		Alan Rowe	
Joy Podbury		Dave Pate	
Rupert Milner		Millie Woodliffe	
Julia Soyke		Richard Ellery	
Millie Woodliffe		Alan Round	
Alan Rowe		John Turner	
		Plus new councillor	
<b>Amenities</b>		<b>Highways</b>	
Joy Podbury		Dave Pate	
Julia Soyke		Millie Woodliffe	
Alan Rowe		Richard Ellery	
Katrina Lyle		Alan Round	
Millie Woodliffe		John Turner	
Judy Price		3 MoP	
John Turner			
<b>Governance</b>		<b>Air Traffic</b>	
<b>Rupert Milner</b>		<b>Neil Barrington-Johnson</b>	
Neil Barrington-Johnson		Julia Soyke	
Katrina Lyle		Joy Podbury	
Alan Rowe		Alan Rowe	
Dave Pate		Plus 2 MoP	
<b>Working Group</b>		<b>Working Group</b>	
<b>Environment</b>		<b>Pavilion Management</b>	
<b>Judy Price</b>		Katrina Lyle	
Dave Pate		Millie Woodliffe	
Plus 6 MoP		John Turner	
<b>APM</b>		<b>Staff</b>	
		Neil Barrington-Johnson	
		Rupert Milner	
<b>Speldhurst VH &amp; Rec</b>		<b>Police Representative</b>	
Richard Ellery		Dave Pate	

<sup>1</sup> The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of **all** committees and can attend any meeting in a voting capacity