



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2020 IN THE GALLERY ROOM,
LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllr Mrs Willis.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present.

20/001 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.

20/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were none.
Apologies were also received from County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Stanyer.

20/003 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

20/004 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

20/005 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **2nd December 2019** be approved as a correct record and the Notes of the Open Meeting held on the **14th October 2019** be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/006 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Borough Cllr Ms Willis said that she had been dealing with complaints from residents regarding the new recycling contract.

The Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre (Fusion) is very run down due to lack of investment which has also led to low staff morale and high turnover. She had visited the centre and been in discussions with the new manager.

A resident from Lampington Row in Langton Green had been in contact with her regarding problems with parking during school drop off and pick up times.

20/007 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Alex Cornelius, Headmaster of Langton Green Primary School spoke of the problems experienced in Lampington Row during school drop off and pick up times.

Safety of school children walking to school – they need to cross the Speldhurst Road at a dangerous point and motorists often do not slow down. Many parents who live within walking distance of the school drive because they feel it is too dangerous for their children to walk which adds to the parking problems. Children have been splashed (and in some cases soaked) by the rainwater which collects in the road towards the bottom of The Green by motorists.

Residents of Lampington Row complain that parents are parking in front of their driveways and double-parking and when challenged are disrespectful and rude.

The school has been unable to recruit a road-crossing-person, despite repeated advertising of the role. It appears that a child needs to be hurt or killed before the issue is raised to such a level that KCC Highways will act on it. Mr Cornelius asked Councillors for SPC’s help in finding a resolution to these problems which are causing aggravation for parents, children and residents alike.

There were a number of questions which included how the staggered opening times in the morning between 8.30 and 9am was working and it was considered it was effective in reducing the problem, but the afternoon was more chaotic. Borough Cllr Mrs Willis asked what the ideal solution would be and he considered a zebra crossing. Cllr Pate suggested that this issue be raised with Kent Highways via SPC’s Highways Committee which was agreed.

20/008 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:** There were none.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting: Unity bank current account:** £583.15 transfer to MasterCard; £102.61 BT Broadband and Telephone; £79.20 Veolia and £32.70 Bank charges. **Mastercard:** Petrol £12.49*; Chairman’s evening £302.75; £9.00 Bank charges; £20.40* Mapping system for Lawful Dev; £13.00 Annual Confirmation statement Companies House.
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority** are starred* above.
- e) Quotation for Speldhurst News to be in colour: The Clerk advised that the quote of £514 was for a 40-page A5 colour magazine for 500 copies. This equates to £1 per copy. SPC do not currently subsidise Speldhurst News however it does contribute to both Langton Life and Ashurst News. **RESOLVED** that SPC would offer to pay for half of Speldhurst News to be printed in colour which would include SPC’s pages.
- f) Grant request from Speldhurst Village Hall towards replacing paving slabs outside the front door with tarmac: no further information had been received.
- g) The Clerk confirmed that he had received £20,000 from Hampshire Trust on 60dn with another £20K due in 30 days. It was agreed that £20,000 be re-deposited and another request sent in giving 60dn of repayment.
- h) Improvements to lighting in the Pavilion to improve security – a quote had been received for two floodlights with PIR detectors inside the Pavilion and it was agreed that this matter would be on the agenda for February’s Full Council meeting.

20/09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Rowe.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount £	Detail
Initial	DD	109.51	Annual Contract pavilion
Alexander Cooper	MT1711	915.31	Office decoration
KALC	MT1712	72.00	Training course
Langton Life	MT1713	250.00	Bi-monthly page
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT1714	488.83	Dog bags
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1715	350.69	LG Rec mowing 4 th quarter
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1716	1,567.79	Groombridge 4 th quarter
Kidman’s Ltd	MT1717	407.01	New blower and maintenance
Barge Group Ltd	MT1718	4,541.70	Rubber Matting playground
Sutcliffe Play	MT1719	3,168.00	Install Nijha Bicycle Mill

Sutcliffe Play	MT1720	7,115.68	Nijha Bicycle Mill
Sodexo	MT1721	1,247.40	Canine Refuse 7 months
David Buckett	MT1722	411.90	Internal Audit
Mr L Cooper	MT1723	12.15	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT1724	43.75	Expenses
Paul Cheater	MT1730	140.00	Pavilion – cleaner
Castle Water	DD	262.87	Pavilion Water
Unity Trust Mastercard	Top up	428.79	Transfer to zero
EDF Energy	DD	357.00	Pavilion electricity
N.E.S.T. Pension scheme	MT1725	115.97	Pension contributions
C May	MT1726	1,567.07	Salary
K Harman	MT1727	749.67	Salary
ML Cooper	MT1728	641.08	Salary
C Barratt	MT1729	423.37	Salary
Veolia	DD	79.20	Waste collection

£25,466.74

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

20/010 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) Report from the Management Committee of the pavilion including an update on the progress of traffic management and parking: Emma Howden had taken over the booking for the pavilion as from January. A new system was being investigated. It was reiterated that SPC would not make a grant towards the drainage project until a satisfactory traffic management plan had been agreed. A meeting of the management committee would be held the following week when the outstanding issues would be discussed. She suggested that signs could be made and planted in the hedgerow to deter parking along Speldhurst Road.
- b) Drainage project: Excessive rainfall at the end of 2019 had caused localised flooding. Complaints had been received from local residents. It was not clear if the flooding was caused by the drainage works or simply the amount of rainfall in such a short amount of time. The matter was being investigated by Agrifactors. Cllr Mrs Lyle would write a draft statement of SPC's position.
- c) Recycling: A quotation for enlarging the bin enclosure had been received from Tate Fencing for £320 and a further one expected from Ian Richards. It was **RESOLVED** that the cheaper of the two quotations would be accepted.
- d) Community Lunch Scheme: This new event had so far proven to be popular. It was noted that SPC is subsidising the lunch by providing the venue and services free of charge. The Clerk said that loneliness amongst the elderly was a growing concern and that it was important to support such events. Cllr Milner volunteered to attend a "Health and Well Being" conference later this month.

20/11 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN: The Clerk had visited site 231 with the concerned resident to consider any substantial trees in the field which may benefit from TPOs. This information had been reported back to TWBC's tree officer who will visit the site in January.

20/12 VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL: Following the resignation of Alan Round, notices had been put up with the period for requesting an election finishing on Monday 13th January 2020. It was agreed that a working party of four councillors consisting of Cllr Barrington-Johnson; Cllr Milner; Cllr Mrs Lyle and Cllr Turner would interview any applicants and make a recommendation to the Council.

20/13 ST PAUL’S CHURCHYARD, NELLINGTON ROAD: The Clerk had received a letter from the Warden of the churchyard saying that they had been having problems with walkers allowing their dogs to foul gravestones which was upsetting relatives. The churchyard is within the parish of Speldhurst and it was agreed that Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Cllr Milner and Cllr Mrs Podbury would visit the churchyard and report back.

20/14 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2020: Candidates were considered, and a recipient was agreed.

20/15 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The Clerk asked councillors for suggestions for speaker(s) at the meeting which would be in April. The subject of climate change and sustainability were agreed as topical and interesting – in particular advice on what residents could do to enable them to ‘do their bit’ to help. Cllr Lucy Willis suggested Friends of the Earth and a local shop from the Pantiles as possible speakers.

20/16 NEWSLETTER: The Clerk asked councillors for suggestions for topics and the following were made: precept; vacancy; highways issues; schools; luncheon club; new play equipment; photo’s of speedwatch.

20/17 VE DAY 75th Anniversary: The Chairman said that because there were four separate villages within the Parish it was difficult to co-ordinate an event that would do justice to the end of the war in Europe, especially following on from the recent 100 year anniversary of the first world war. It was agreed to write to the churches asking them if they would ring the church bells at the appropriate time. It was also agreed to ask the schools whether they were planning events to celebrate and to advise that the Council would consider contributing to the funding of such an event, especially if it included the elderly in some way.

20/18 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: The Chairman referred to his meeting notes and that the TWBC Agreement was to be modified.

20/19 COMMITTEE REPORTS: to include any Committee Meetings held since the last Full Council meeting, the Draft Minutes having been previously forwarded to all Members

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that no meeting had been held and one was planned for February.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Rowe referred to the minutes of the meeting held in December
- c) **Highways** – Cllr Pate said a meeting which had been arranged with the KCC Schemes team for 7th January had been cancelled due to illness. It had been rearranged for 3rd February and the meeting of the committee, originally set up for 13th January had now been rescheduled for 10th February.
- d) **Amenities** – Cllr Rowe said there was nothing to report
- e) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said there was nothing to report
- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that he now had two new recruits to help with footpath maintenance.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – there was nothing to report.
- h) **KALC** – The Chairman referred to his report.

20/20 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2ND DECEMBER 2019: there were none.

20/21 CLERK’S REPORT: He said he was trying to fix some dates for meetings in February but already half-term was causing dates to be changed.

He referred Councillors to the photos of the new play equipment and flooring which had been paid for in the payments authorised today.

He referred to a poster in the car park which was “anti-idling” and had been promoted by TWBC. He said that more had been requested to put up around the area.

20/22 DIARY DATES:

Monday 6th January – Full Council Meeting at 7.30pm, Gallery Room at Langton Green Village Hall.

Monday 13th – Highways Meeting (now cancelled)

Wednesday 15th – Planning Meeting

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

Recruitment of Parish Councillor:

Monday 13th – By-election deadline

Tuesday 14th – Co-option begins

Staff Training

Friday 24th – Administrative Assistant, Web Accessibility Regulations Workshop

Friday 31st – Groundsman, Legionella Course

20/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: Cllr Mrs Soyke mentioned the Rude Mechanicals had had their funding cut by the Arts Council.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chairman