



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY 2013 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: County Cllr John Davies; Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer; and two members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Owen (holiday) and Borough Cllr David Jukes

13/023 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared a significant interest in **13/034** – one of the sites referred to in the TWBC land asset disposal programme is adjacent to her residence. Cllr Mrs Soyke declared a significant interest in **13/028 viii)** she is a member of the church PCC

13/024 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

13/025 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **7th January 2013**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

13/026 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr Davies reported that he has a meeting on 5th February regarding the Langton Green Primary School expansion proposals. The KCC budget meeting is on 15th February and a nil rate increase for 2013/2014 is proposed. He reported that he has no money remaining in his allowance. Borough Cllr Julian Stanyer said that TWBC are looking to sell some small parcels of land within the Parish. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that this will be discussed later on the Agenda. Borough Cllr Julia Soyke advised that there is no further news on the old cinema site.

13/027 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Ponsford raised the matter of the feasibility study for the expansion of Langton Green Primary School. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys confirmed that SPC wrote to KCC with their views but that this had to be sent before the delayed feasibility study was produced.

13/028 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that no meeting had been held since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting will be held on 18th February.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had been two email decisions in the last month; it was agreed to give a grant of £250 to The Samaritans and it was agreed to give £12 to Ashurst Broadsheet for the yearly subscription including a donation.
- iii) Budget virements: it was **AGREED** to transfer £485 from ear marked reserves to Langton Green maintenance to pay for the new bench for LGRG.
- iv) The Clerk said there had been much confusion surrounding the matter of the Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) and suggested that the additional amount of £2,536.62 allocated to this parish (which will be received on top of the precept of £125,000 for 2013/2014) is placed in ear-marked reserves and used next year. This was **AGREED**.
- v) Langton Green Rural Society request for a grant of £400 towards the insurance costs for the 2013 Fete. After discussion and reference to Cllr Parker it was **AGREED** to deduct the charge of £112 for the tent used by B4RS at the 2012 Fete (they were informed there would be no charge) from this amount and make a grant of £288.
- vi) Groombridge Sports Ground Association has asked for support for their pavilion project at the Tanyard ground. After discussion it was **AGREED** that the project is at too early a stage to make any decision. **The Clerk to write to the Association advising them of the information that would be required in due course for the application to be considered.**
- vii) Tree work at Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG) and the Pocket Park, Roopers – The Clerk advised that further work is required within the next month or so at a cost of £2,390. After discussion it was **AGREED** that this work should be carried out. Money to come from the contingency account.
- viii) St Martin of Tours Church grant request for churchyard maintenance and additional work. After discussion it was **AGREED** that a grant for churchyard maintenance of £500 be given but further quotes should be obtained and copies of their accounts should be provided before any decision is made for other works. **The Clerk to write to them.**
- ix) Replacement fingerposts at Langton Green and Speldhurst – The quote obtained for the two fingerposts is £732 (plus installation costs) and KCC have offered £590 in 2013/14 financial year as a contribution. It was **AGREED** to order and install the fingerposts.
An email has been received from Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association (see correspondence below) asking for the previously agreed grant of £8,000 to be released so they can start work. This was **AGREED**.
The clerk explained that there was a difference in the reconciliation of the bank account and he had circulated an explanation. There were no further questions.

13/029 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Hemming

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Additional Payments in January not listed</u>			
Langton Green Netball Club	061	350.00	Grant
Prestige Web Marketing	MT64	190.00	50% Of new website cost
Rymans	MT65	61.55	Stationery
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
EDF Energy	DD	140.73	EDF Energy
		£722.28	
<u>Payments in February</u>			
Premiere Digital	062	525.00	Newsletters
St Martin's Church, Ashurst	063	12.00	Broadsheet
KALC	064	144.00	Finance Conference
John Robertson Ltd	065	582.00	Bench for LGRG
Viking Direct	066	77.98	Stationery

Ideal Security	067	336.00	CCTV Maintenance
HMRC	068	699.68	NI & Tax
RIP Cleaning Services	069	216.00	Canine refuse
Miss K Lawrence	070	15.00	Cleaning
C Worcester	071	65.00	Fixing notice board
Mr L Cooper	MT66	250.00	Groundsman duties
M Flemington	MT67	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	MT68	31.15	Expenses
C May	MT69	1,355.57	Salary
C May	MT70	13.95	Expenses
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT71	9.75	Meeting room
Treework	MT72	216.00	Fell Beech tree
TW&D Samaritans	MT73	250.00	Grant
A&B Sports Association	072	8,000.00	Grant

Total payments **£ 13,422.49**

13/030 HIGHWAYS REPORT: Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to the minutes of the recent meeting and her report on the proposed ISS on Langton Road and parking issues in Barden Road. A further email has been sent to KCC by a resident regarding problems with school buses and Cllr Mrs Horne received a response from Bryan Sweetland of KCC regarding the school bus issues. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that residents should keep reporting issues with overcrowding and buses leaving too early and the article in the village magazines will be repeated.

13/031 LANGTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL (LGPS) EXPANSION PROPOSALS: There was much discussion about the fact that because of the delays with the feasibility study, SPC had to comment on the proposals before the feasibility study was available. It was also considered that the feasibility study did not address the many concerns and issues raised by interested parties. Cllr Woodward offered to discuss the matter at his appointment with Greg Clark MP at his Surgery at LGVH on 15th February. Cllr Mrs Soyke asked County Cllr John Davies to find out whether the current sibling admission criterion being used is national policy or not. It was noted that the meeting proposed for further consultation on February 28th has been cancelled (see correspondence) by KCC.

13/032 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- i) Pavilion – Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) has submitted their planning application and this will be considered by SPC Planning Committee at their next meeting on 19th February.
- ii) Car parking – this will be considered at the Amenities Committee meeting on 11th February.
- iii) Langton Green Fete Committee has requested use of the car park on the day of the 2013 Fete – Saturday 6th July. This was **AGREED**.
- iv) The Clerk reported that a quotation had been received for CCTV number recognition of £6,500 and a less effective version was £1,100. It was **AGREED** not to go ahead with this.

13/033 COUNCIL POLICIES ANNUAL REVIEW:

- i) Temporary signs on Council land policy – It was **AGREED TO ADOPT** the policy subject to amended wording in the first paragraph to read ‘advertising future events’ and ‘placement of signs on Green Belt land’
- ii) Freedom of Information Policy – It was **AGREED TO ADOPT** the policy.
- iii) Environment Policy – It was **AGREED TO ADOPT** the policy.

13/034 TWBC LAND ASSET DISPOSAL PROGRAMME: Two plans from TWBC showing land for disposal at The Boundary and Lampington Row had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that TWBC are not pursuing disposal of the land at Lampington Row immediately because of the school expansion proposals. The clerk advised that the narrow strip of land adjacent to The Boundary and Longmeads is in fact

within Rusthall Parish. After discussion it was **AGREED** in principle to advise TWBC that SPC will be prepared to have the three parcels of land at The Boundary transferred to SPC. The clerk was requested to ask if TWBC will maintain and clean the pond before ownership is transferred. **Clerk to advise TWBC.**

13/035 GATWICK: A response was received prior to this meeting from TWBC to say that they currently have no position in relation to noise from the use of Gatwick Airport. After discussion it was **AGREED** to write to Gatwick about the issues and copy the letter to TWBC. **Cllr Mrs Podbury will provide the Clerk with a list of other local Parish Councils to be copied in to the letter.**

13/036 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that preparations are being made for the Annual Parish Assembly on 8th April and most of the letters inviting local organisations have now been sent out.

13/037 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Pendleton reported that a Committee meeting was held on 23rd January and the minutes have been circulated. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk's appraisals were satisfactory and both will increase one salary spinal point in April. The Clerk's job description has been amended to include 'maintaining and updating as appropriate the Council's website'. It was **AGREED** that the job description be **ADOPTED**. Cllr Pendleton advised that a form will be prepared to show items checked each month and a rota will be prepared in advance to confirm who will carry out each monthly check.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that several recent TWBC planning decisions have been made against SPC recommendations.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that the next Committee meeting will be held on 11th February.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported that KCC had made some improvements to footpath WT67 off Stockland Green road using the road planing method and a stile between Stone Cross and Fordcombe will be repaired/replaced shortly. Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that a PROW Officer is meeting her to complete the Stone Cross diversion.
- v) Broadband – Cllr Woodward reported that the result of the funding bid to DEFRA should be known by March 2013.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Mrs Soyke and the Clerk attended the training day on 2nd February. Cllr Mrs Soyke will pass her notes to the Clerk and **the Clerk will circulate to all Cllrs.**
- vii) Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr Turner reported that a Working Group meeting involving volunteers from members of the public had been held on 21st January and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting will be held on 25th February and Jean Marshall of TWBC will speak at the March Working Group meeting.
- viii) Environment Working Group – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that Debbie Siddle has had to resign from the Environment working Group due to work commitments. Cllr Mrs Hull thanked her very much for her valuable work and wished her well in her role as Clerk to Withyham Parish Council.

13/038 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 4th JANUARY 2012: The Clerk reminded all Cllrs that the Full Council meeting on 4th March will start at **7pm** with an address from Mr Peeters of TWBC. Cllr Mrs Hull said she would like to attend the south east water resources briefing on 15th February. The Clerk reported that the notice board from the old post office in Langton Green has been taken down following the new notice board being placed on The Green and that it could be used somewhere else. A suggestion is Speldhurst Chapel car park. **The Clerk to contact The Chapel.** The Clerk reported that he is still waiting to hear further from Town and Country Housing regarding the parking issues in Speldhurst.

13/039 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Hospice in the Weald News Winter 2012/2013
2. Letter dated 3rd January from ROSPA enclosing their details of annual playground inspections
3. Email dated 10th January from CSC Regeneration regarding grant funded consultancy studies
4. Email dated 10th January with an invitation to a Briefing re Water Resources in the South East on 15th February in London – **Clerk to confirm attendance by Cllr Mrs Hull**

5. Letter dated 15th January from the RSPB advising that from 1st February 2013 all dogs must be on leads in the Broadwater Warren Nature Reserve
6. Email dated 16th January from KALC with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Kent Police and Crime Plan April 2013 – March 2017
7. Email dated 17th January from KALC with details of inspection reports of fire hydrants etc that can be carried out by Parish Council representatives on behalf of Kent Fire and Rescue Services in the local community – **Clerk to circulate to Cllrs**
8. Copy of Mr & Mrs Ponsford's comments on the KCC Education proposal that Langton Green Primary School (LGPS) should expand.
9. Letter from the Silvanus Trust (Education Research with Plymouth University) asking for help with research into unsuccessful Big Tree Fund grant applications – **Clerk to reply advising that SPC will not be taking part in the research**
10. Glasdon products for Local Councils brochure
11. Letter dated 22nd January from the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells thanking SPC for their donation to the Mayor's Christmas 2012 Toy Appeal and with details of a Charity Bowling Evening on Sunday 27th January in aid of Hospice in the Weald
12. Email dated 23rd January from TWBC with details of bogus charity bag scams
13. Email dated 25th January from TWBC regarding "Love where we live" awards – some suggestions have been put forward
14. News in Kent – Edition 1 from Kent Police for Parish Councils
15. Email dated 25th January from KALC regarding nominations for the Kent Community Safety Awards March 2013
16. ACRK Rural News issue 125
17. Email from Robin Humphries (A&BSA) explaining progress on sports pavilion advising that they have selected a preferred supplier for the improvements based on designs by David Crundwell and asking for the funds for the agreed grant of £8,000 to be released. It was **AGREED** that a cheque for £8,000 be sent to Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association
18. Letter from Speldhurst C.E. Primary School dated 28th January (arrived 1st February) requesting a grant contribution of up to £5,000 towards IT – **to be considered at the Finance Committee meeting on 18th February**
19. Unity Trust Bank Newsletter for January
20. KCC letter dated 29th January concerning changes to the management of PROW in Kent – passed to Cllr Milner
21. Email from Ken Vernon of Long Slip complaining of the state of the side roads off Newlands
22. Email dated 1st February from Kent Low Carbon Partnership – winter update
23. KALC January edition of Parish News
24. Copy of letter (via LGPS) from KCC cancelling meeting on 28th February regarding school expansion

13/040 DIARY DATES:

1. Saturday 2nd February – KALC Legal and Finance training - Salomons
2. Monday 4th February – Planning Committee meeting
3. Monday 11th February – Amenities Committee meeting (office) – 10am
4. Friday 15th February – Greg Clark MP Surgery – Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall
5. Monday 18th February – Finance Committee meeting (office)
6. Tuesday 19th February – Planning Committee meeting (office)
7. Monday 25th February – Neighbourhood Planning Working Group meeting - LGVH
8. Wednesday 27th February – KALC Committee meeting – Matfield Village Hall
9. Thursday 28th February – Clerks' networking meeting (lunch) - Goudhurst
10. Monday 4th March – **Full Council Meeting** – Ashurst Village Hall – **7pm**

13/041 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Langridge reported that a traffic warden has been in attendance in Langton Green on the last few Sundays. Cllr Parker reported that Langton Green Rural Society has had to cancel the village entrances project due to higher than anticipated costs.

Cllr Milner reported that there was an interesting article in Which Magazine recently about potholes which he will send in to the Office.

The Clerk reported that fly tipping is an increasing issue and is happening regularly at the recycling area at LGRG.

Cllr Mrs Soyke confirmed that the email for reporting Gatwick airport issues is noise.line@gawickairport.com and the telephone number is 0800 393070.

Cllr Mrs Podbury congratulated Cllr Langridge and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys on the excellent Winter 2012/2013 Newsletter. This was endorsed by all Councillors.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.21pm

CHAIRMAN