



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 4TH JULY 2016 at 7.30pm
IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Jeffreys (left at 8.55pm), Mrs Lyle, Mrs Price, Mrs Soyke, Allen, Kerby, Mercieca, Milner, Parker and Turner.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present - Mr Saunders from Speldhurst

16/128 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.

16/129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Podbury (holiday), Cllr Mrs Horne (prior engagement), County Councillor John Davies (holiday) and Mrs K Plunkett (school event)

16/130 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllr Barrington-Johnson is a committee member of the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) 16/135f)

16/131 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Lyle reported that they had been negotiating with Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA).

16/132 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **6th June 2016** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/133 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: The Clerk reported that he has been advised by KCC Cllr John Davies that he will be stepping down at the elections next year.

16/134 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Saunders was there to observe only

16/135 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- a) There has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) There have been no budget virements
- c) There have been three interim payments which noted under the ALTO card – a solar light £20.98; additional keys cut £18.00 and office supplies £22.83.
- d) The three payments above were made under the Clerk's delegated authority
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £250.00 to Victim Support.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £400 towards the insurance for Langton Green Village Society's fete. Cllr Barrington-Johnson took no part in the discussion or the decision.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure for Groundsman to clear overgrown footpaths

- h) The policy consultations regarding transparency and changes to central lending to local authorities were noted.

16/136 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Lyle

Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card in June

Amazon	AO106	20.98	Solar Light*
Timpson Ltd	AO107	18.00	additional keys cut*
Sainsbury's	AO108	22.83	Office supplies*
Engrave It All	AO109	96.99	School Awards engraving
Total payments		158.80	

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
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT819	16.00	Room rental
M Flemington	MT820	45.00	Salary
Westcotec	MT821	120.00	Additional SID brackets
KALC	MT822	72.00	Clerk's Conference
MR Lawrence	MT823	480.00	Mowing
Langton Life	MT824	250.00	LL Article
Archer Signs and Panels Ltd	MT825	128.94	Signs
Greenbarnes Ltd	MT826	1,414.79	Ashurst Notice Board
1 st Speldhurst & Langton Scout	MT827	500.00	Grant towards trip
Mr L Cooper	MT828	452.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT829	8.75	Expenses
K Plunkett	MT830	39.60	Expenses
C May	MT831	52.80	Expenses
RIP Cleaning Services	MT834	216.00	Canine Refuse
EDF Energy	DD	349.73	Pavilion electricity
K Plunkett	MT832	604.44	Salary
C May	MT833	1,095.41	Salary
Total payments		5,875.46	

*Payment made under the Clerk's delegated authority

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

16/137 HIGHWAYS:

- Cllr Milner advised that a meeting of the committee was to be held on Thursday 14th July.
- He said the SID was working and has been in three of the four positions (the vegetation on Speldhurst Hill is preventing it being used there for the time being).
- Speedwatch. No sessions have been held since the end of May. Cllr Allen said he was willing to lead one in August. Date to be advised.
- 20mph – the Clerk had written a further email to KCC and had been promised action.
- The Clerk advised that the newly installed bus stop near The Hare had been hit by a large vehicle. He is enquiring with KCC on what the next course of action was. An insurance claim may be necessary.
- The Clerk had got the approval of the police and TWBC for the wording and use of their logos on the leaflet. He said that Councillors should be careful not to over use them and suggested that they be placed on persistent offenders only. Councillors should take photographic evidence to back up any disputes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the leaflet warning motorists about parking on pavements.

16/138 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that the building was not finished and the cladding was yet to go on. She also said that the cricket club were due to review arrangements ahead of their opening game on 7th August. She advised that she still did not have a final quote for the container and details of the ramp were yet to be finalised. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised Councillors about the lengthy communications with the Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA) regarding a settlement going forward, that had primarily been dealt with by Cllr Mrs Lyle.
- b) Cllr Mrs Lyle reminded the meeting that a variation to the lease had been made the previous year which gave in principle approval to the creation of a charge by LGCSA over their lease. A further variation to the lease has now been requested to allow the Football Foundation (“FF”) an equitable share of any insurance proceeds, and to remove SPC’s right to forfeit the lease in the event of LGCSA’s insolvency. Cllr Mrs Lyle advised the meeting that this was a normal term in commercial mortgages. After further discussion and clarification it was **RESOLVED** to approve the execution of the new deed of variation to the lease. Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that, in order for the FF to be able to take a charge over LGCSA’s lease and therefore also to exercise the step in rights granted by the original variation, a letter of consent to the registration of a legal charge in favour of the FF was required. A unanimous vote: **RESOLVED** to write a letter as described above.
- c) Cllr Mrs Lyle said that LGCSA had not agreed a 30% contribution to maintenance costs, but had agreed that if there was a net loss of over £2,000 per annum and the dedicated account for the pavilion running costs had less than the agreed threshold of reserves in it, they would hold a fund raising event not more frequently than every two years, with the funds raised to be put towards the pavilion and facility running costs – this would be done on a “best endeavours” basis which Cllr Barrington-Johnson said was important and should not be diluted. Cllr Lyle said there was always the alternative which was to allow the LGCSA to manage the building. There was concern over the unknown revenue and costs and Cllr Kerby wished his reservations about this to be recorded. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve in principle the Heads of Terms as prepared by Cllr Mrs Lyle with the amendment as discussed and to delegate the final wording of the agreement to her after consultations with a solicitor that she will choose. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked for the thanks of the Council to be recorded to Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys and Lyle for all of their substantial work on this issue.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to authorise up to £2,000 for the completion of this work by the solicitor.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to set up a management committee for managing the pavilion with LGCSA and Cllr Mrs Lyle and Cllr Turner said they would be prepared to be the SPC team.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £25 per month to the Trustees of the Langton Green Village Hall in respect of rubbish collected from Langton Green Recreation Ground. This understanding will be in place until arrangements are made for the pavilion.

16/139 Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – Cllr Mrs Price has experience of Local Plans and said that in her opinion it was a good document that had simplified previous reports. She made some suggestions and it was agreed that they should be discussed in more detail at the Planning Meeting and that she and another Councillor meet with the Clerk to respond to the Plan before the end of the consultation period on August 1st. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the response to this team.

16/140 TWBC ‘Love where we live awards’: Cllr Mrs Price suggested that Baketastic be put forward for the “Ethical Business Award” and had written reasons why they should be considered. It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Baketastic for the award.

16/141 Newsletter The newsletter had been delivered and was ready for distribution by Councillors.

16/142 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Nothing to report.

16/143 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Parker said there had been no meeting and there was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Turner said that the Planning Committee had agreed that Environment was not a suitable fit and should be a separate working group. Cllr Mrs Price has asked for this to be an agenda item for the August Full Council meeting.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Turner referred to the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th June. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she had spoken to Mr Crundwell about the erosion of The Green at Groombridge (by vehicles) along the road that runs in the middle. He had suggested more granite stones could prevent this.
- d) **Air Traffic** – There was no report but Cllr Barrington-Johnson said there was a meeting of the High Weald Councils Aircraft Action group (HWCAAG) in the LGVH on the next evening of 5th July.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that overgrowth was the main issue.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – there was nothing to report
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner said that the Parish Plan was almost ready and it was hoped that it would be with Councillors before the August meeting so that they could sign off their agreement that there was nothing factually incorrect. The document was meant to challenge the Council and would need some work responding to and implementing some of the suggestions. Cllr Mrs Price suggested that any organisations referred to as “partners” should be contacted for their consent prior to publication.

16/144 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6th JUNE 2016: No other matters.

16/145 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1) Email from Roger Mallett inviting Councillors to the LGCT AGM on Thursday 6th October.
- 2) Invitation from TWBC to all Councillors interested in Planning to a training event on Wednesday 13th July in the Council Chamber.
- 3) Email from the new Mayor, David Neve offering attendance at local community events and promoting his chosen charity, BEAT.
- 4) Letter inviting entries for the competition ‘Kent Rural Retailer 2016’
- 5) Letter from E-on advising of increased deemed Contract rates for electricity from 1st July.
- 6) Email notifying Councils of the immediate withdrawal of Police Contact Points (mobile police stations)
- 7) Letter from SE Coast Ambulance Service regarding our Defibrillator. They need to know if it is available for members of the public.

16/146 DIARY DATES:

Saturday 2nd July – LGVS Fete 12noon -5pm

Monday 4th July – Full Council Meeting – LGVH Palmer Room

Tuesday 5th July – HWCAAG – LGVH Palmer Room

Monday 11th July – Planning Meeting

Wednesday 13th July – Planning training for Clerks/Councillors –TWBC 10.15am -1.30pm

Thursday 14th July – Highways Meeting 10.30am

Monday 1st August – Full Council Meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall

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

16/147 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Mrs Soyke said the response to the TWBC training event on planning had not been responded to well. SPC was sending three councillors and both clerks.
- The clerk mentioned the incident of graffiti on the fences in Langton Green
- He referred to the email that had been circulated by Mr Schuck regarding a resident of Speldhurst who appeared not to have the installation qualifications he said he had.
- He brought to the attention the intention of SGN to shut Speldhurst Hill for 11 weeks from 25th July
- He mentioned that dog bags had been lit and residual damage had been done to the dispenser.

- Cllr Mercieca said he was attending the Councillors Conference on July 7th
- He mentioned that he had seen contractors depositing cardboard in the container at LGRG

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman