



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

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM IN LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Price, Mrs Woodliffe, Kerby, Mercieca, Ellery, Allen and Parker

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors David Jukes and Julian Stanyer and County Councillor James McInroy.

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

18/024 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.

18/025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllr Milner (holiday)

18/026 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllr Mrs Price declared an interest in item 8e – grant request from Speldhurst Recreation Ground Trust towards a MUGA. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that she is a Trustee for the Langton Green Sports Association and therefore has an interest in item 11b – discussions regarding a 3G pitch. The Chairman declared an interest in item 17 as he is a member of the Langton Green Village Society Committee.

18/027 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

18/028 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **8th January 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18/029 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

- County Cllr McInroy said that KCC are still working through the budget and he believes the financial stewardship is under good control and will safeguard frontline services.
- Borough Cllr Stanyer said that he is concerned about the ongoing issue with the Langton Green allotments. He also mentioned the current planning application for a bell mouth entrance in Burnt House Lane which is causing concern amongst parishioners.
- Borough Cllr Jukes said that he had visited Burnt House Lane to investigate the planning application. He said that he has been asked to call it in. He went on to congratulate Cllr Mrs Soyke on chairing a successful debate on 6th December regarding the Civic Centre in Tunbridge Wells and confirmed that the relevant planning application will now go before Full Council in April. He said that the cultural hub project merging the Library and Museum has now been outstanding for 5 ½ years however it now has planning permission and should be

finished within 2-3 years. He also said that TWBC are looking into putting steps up the sides of the war memorial on Mount Pleasant avenue and narrowing and paving the road to reduce traffic in that area.

- The Clerk enquired about plans for the development of Royal Victoria Place and Borough Cllr Jukes said that there is nothing to report at the moment.

18/030 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Marianne Buckley complained that the draft minutes for January 2018 were not on the website. Cllr Barrington-Johnson apologised and said they would be uploaded. Mrs Buckley then went on to enquire why the Parish Council continues to subsidise the pavilion. The Chairman confirmed that the pavilion is not being subsidised and that there is a positive cashflow. Mrs Buckley said she is concerned about the conflict between the pavilion and the village hall bookings and the long-term finances of the village hall.

The Chairman asked Mrs Plunkett and Mrs Bischoff if the MUGA discussion could wait until item 8e which was agreed.

18/031 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- There had been a Finance Committee meeting on the 31st January 2018, the minutes having previously been circulated.
- Virements – **RESOLVED** that the virement recommended by the Finance Committee for £2,850 for repairs to the LG playground be made from the Ear Marked Reserves Repair & Renewal account. This leaves a balance in the EMR account of £50k.
- Interim payments – there were none since the Finance Meeting.
- Payments made under delegated authority – there were none.
- Grant request of £3K from Speldhurst Recreation Ground Trust towards a MUGA. Kate Plunkett and Lynsay Bischoff explained that the Parish Plan had shown a need for facilities for teenagers which the MUGA would provide. The patch of land in question is currently in regular use with football games but is too muddy in winter or dry bare earth in the summer months. They said that there was money left over from the original project when the need for a multipurpose surface was identified. They have received £12,000 from Sport England and have raised an extra £2,400 but they are still £8,000 short. A mid-range pitch had been selected with a life of approximately 20 years. Maintenance costs had been factored in from the yearly donations by the Pram Race and Fete. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to grant £3k. Cllr Mrs Price abstained.

18/032 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1224	216.00	Canine Refuse collection November
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1225	172.80	Canine Refuse January
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1226	12.00	Room Hire
Prestige Web Marketing	MT1227	50.00	Website file update
G Mercieca	MT1228	42.60	Reimbursement
Performing Right Society	MT1229	402.96	Annual Music Licence
CWCS	MT1230	11.99	Hosting
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT1231	31.80	Meeting rooms Quarter
Kate Harman	MT1232	31.95	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1233	30.00	Expenses
C May	MT1234	24.44	Expenses
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT1239	24.00	Meeting room
Paul Cheater	MT1240	140.00	Pavilion cleaning
KCC (KCS)	DD	141.13	Photocopier
Mr L Cooper	MT1235	640.70	Salary

Kate Harman	MT1236	651.19	Salary
C May	MT1237	1,807.47	Salary
N.E.S.T.	MT1238	26.79	Pension Contributions
Total:		£4,458.82	

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

18/033 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: In the absence of a Chairman, the Clerk confirmed-

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19th February 2018.
- 20mph advisory – Highways have recommended solar powered signs in Langton Green which should reduce set up costs substantially and disruption during installation as well as running costs. He is awaiting updated costings. Councillors expressed concern about the reliability of solar and Cllr Barrington-Johnson agreed, however he said the Council should be guided by Highway's recommendation that solar has advanced and would be effective because of the short times of usage. Cllr Mrs Price said the Council should be considering environmentally friendly options where possible. **RESOLVED** that if the installation can be brought forward, and considerable saving is made, the solar powered signs should be used.
- TRO application for 60mph to 40mph on Speldhurst Road – progress is being made – KCC Highways have agreed to redraw the maps and submit the application.
- 20 mph in Speldhurst – no further information has been received.
- New gateways – financing of the gateways was approved at the Finance Committee meeting and the project is now underway.

18/034 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) Cllr Mercieca had been making a helpful contribution to the management team. PAT testing will be completed later this month. The installation company have been asked to return to do an annual service and they have advised recent concerns may be due to limescale.

It has been considered that an electricity monitor would be a more effective way to gauge electricity usage than a smart meter. This will cost approximately £80-£100. Cllr Mrs Lyle will action the installation.

- b) Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA) are concerned about the poor drainage on the Recreation Ground and are considering options for how this can be improved. There is the option of a 3G pitch, with all its implications, or different drainage methods and costs. At an earlier informal meeting the Chairman of LGCSA questioned whether Councillors had a mandate to make the decision on whether to allow a 3G pitch or not.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson said he did not want voting leaflets or website submissions. Cllr Mrs Price asked if the investigation can be done alongside the Local Plan consultation on need in the area. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that the Council needs to gather all the facts first before deciding on how the project is then progressed.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson confirmed that, in his opinion, the Council has the mandate and the responsibility to decide how the final decision regarding whether the pitch goes ahead is made. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** by majority vote (9-2) that the Parish Council take the decision on this project. Cllr Mrs Lyle abstained.

There was much discussion about other options and Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Councillors to consider if they would like to be involved in finding out further information on 3G before the decision is made.

18/035 PARISH PLAN: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that one of the recommendations in the Parish Plan was a safety leaflet to be distributed to all households. Peter Brown of Neighbourhood Watch has been working on this and will meet with the Police to discuss. If any councillors have an interest in this, please advise Peter Brown via the Clerk.

18/036 LANGTON GREEN ALLOTMENTS: Julian Stanyer said that he was concerned that no settlement has yet been reached with Mr Bodle. Cllr Barrington-Johnson outlined progress so far by saying that Mr Bodle had agreed to a three-month extension which runs to the end of March however he has heard nothing back from him since, despite chasing on several occasions and requesting a further extension. The residents will continue to use the allotments until they receive further notice from him and he will continue to chase Mr Bodle and keep councillors updated.

18/037 NEWSLETTER – The Clerk said that he has almost finished the newsletter but needed one or two articles. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Councillors to prepare articles if they can think of anything to add and send them to the Clerk. The Clerk said that he would be pushing for Speedwatch to be community-led. The Chairman asked Councillors if any of them would be interested in taking on the preparation of future Newsletters as he felt it should revert to be a Councillor's responsibility.

18/038 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - The Clerk asked if any Councillors had suggestions for a speaker. Cllr Mrs Lyle suggested an update on developments in Tunbridge Wells e.g. for the Victoria Centre. Borough Cllr Jukes agreed to speak at the APM on April 23rd regarding this matter.

18/039 LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEE - After many years Mrs Marianne Buckley will be stepping down as the LGVH Trustee in the Autumn. A potential replacement has been found and this item will go on a future agenda for a vote. The Chairman asked that if any Councillors wish to take up the role, they should advise either him or the Clerk. Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked Mrs Buckley on behalf of SPC for all her hard work in the last ten years that she has held this role. Mrs Buckley said she is happy to continue in this role until the LGCT AGM in October.

18/040 LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE SOCIETY – RESOLVED that the Village Society can use the carpark during the fete as in previous years.

18/041 BATTLE'S OVER – A NATION'S TRIBUTE – Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Councillors if they wish to participate in this county-wide ceremony. Does the Parish Council wish to participate as a parish or individually as villages? **RESOLVED** that Councillors take the campaign to their respective villages. Cllrs Mrs Soyke, Podbury, Barrington-Johnson and Price will discuss with their various village representatives or societies.

18/042 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said he had nothing to report.

18/043 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Governance** – In Cllr Milner's absence there was nothing to report. There been a meeting of the Governance Committee on Monday 29th January 2018, the minutes having previously been circulated.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said that there are three current noteworthy applications.
 - Scriventon Farm – the access appears to have been updated on the application however there are still no decisions. It has been called in. Awaiting progress.
 - Jockey Farm – an application to put in sports pitches. This was allocated by TWBC based on need data from 2006. It has now been agreed that nothing will go ahead at least until the current study for pitches is completed by TWBC.
 - Burnt House Lane – parking bay for forestry loading vehicles – this application will be considered at the Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday. The Clerk advised that we have received a Freedom of Information request regarding SPC's response to Tilhill to their initial enquiry.
 - The Local Plan Review – we are still waiting for a first copy. Cllr Mrs Price said that there are supporting documents online and noted that Speldhurst's Green Belt is given low priority. The consultation statement which sets out responses to where the new development should go in the borough shows a preference for the A21 corridor followed by a new focused development. It is likely the draft will combine these options and a feasibility study will be carried out.

- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there had been a meeting of the Amenities Committee on Monday 22nd January, the minutes having previously been circulated.
 - The Parish Plan – the committee felt that it had carried out all the items on the Plan and asked if it could be removed from the agenda. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked that it remains on the agenda.
 - Boundary change – Cllr Mrs Podbury provided councillors with an update. Councillors agreed that the decision regarding how to progress this matter should go on the March agenda.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there was nothing to report.
- e) **Footpaths** – In Cllr Milner’s absence, there was nothing to report.
- f) **KALC** – There was nothing to report. The Clerks and some councillors attended a course on GDPR. KALC will provide a guide for councils which will be used to formulate an action plan for SPC. It was noted there may be significant implications.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – Cllr Mrs Price said that the working group has lots of ideas they are hoping to follow through in the spring.

18/044 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 8th January 2018 –

- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the Clerk no longer needs to approach EDF for a smart meter as she will investigate purchasing an electricity monitor for the pavilion (see item 11).
- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that unfortunately Langton Green Primary School had not been successful in their bid for funding for new toilet facilities from Aviva. Cllr Mrs Lyle said she would discuss the matter with James McInroy.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke noted the serious accident next to Ashurst church and enquired if Highways would know to claim reimbursement from the insurance company to replace the sign.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke noted that the culvert on the Ashurst Road is blocked again.

18/045 CLERK’S REPORT:

- A letter had been received from Town and Country Housing for information only regarding developing the garages at the end of Lampington Row.
- Holmewood House School have asked if they can they borrow our speed equipment which was agreed by Councillors.
- An invitation had been received for a Councillor to attend the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent’s Civic Service on Tuesday March 20th.
- KALC – Local Government Ethical Standards review of the code of conduct. The Clerk asked Councillors to let him know if they have any items to add.

18/046 DIARY DATES:

Monday 5th – Full Council Meeting in Palmer Room, LG Village Hall

Wednesday 7th – Planning Committee Meeting, Gallery Room, LGVH

Thursday 8th – KALC Governance, Procedures and Transparency Conference (CM attending)

Monday 19th – Highways Meeting

Wednesday 21st – KALC TW meeting RM/CM attending

Thursday 22nd – Clerks Data Protection training – TWBC 2pm

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

18/047 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman