



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

**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground
On Monday 27th January 2020 at 1.30pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Lyle and Milner (ex-officio)

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

1. **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.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Podbury (holiday); Mrs Woodliffe (work commitments) and Turner (holiday).
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
7. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:**
 - a) The flooring under the gyrosipiral had been replaced.
 - b) The repairs to the flooring of the playground had been carried out.
 - c) The bicycle mill roundabout had been replaced.
 - d) Lawful Development Certificate for the Installation of plastic grid matting for extra parking next to the pavilion – the application had been verified by TWBC and a decision was expected mid-March.
 - e) The Assistant Clerk had advised Zurich insurers of the works being carried out on the Recreation Ground in November 2019.
 - f) The Assistant Clerk had written to TWBC regarding temporary removal of the bin on the Green in Langton Green and had not received a response. She would chase.
8. **Financial Review:** The finance sheets had been circulated. Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that the rental income from the Pavilion had dramatically increased since the café proprietor had taken over the bookings. The Assistant Clerk advised that the cost of the tree maintenance works recommended to be carried out between two and five years was £510.

9. **Parish Council Land:**

a. **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

- Langton Green Village Hall – there was nothing to report.
 - i. Pavilion – It was noted that the drains were no longer blocking and were being checked weekly by the Groundsman.
 - ii. The Groundsman would be attending legionella training to enable him to carry out checks at the pavilion. Cllr Turner was organising a full flush through of the system.
 - iii. The improvements to the CCTV had been investigated and would be put to Full Council.
- Sports Clubs – Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that the cricket club would be re-proposing joining LGCSA at their AGM at the end of February.
- Play Area – Cllr Rowe enquired about the path from the rear of the playground which Councillors had previously discussed weatherproofing as it could get muddy during the winter months. It was agreed that this would be revisited once the recreation ground was back in use .
- Recreation ground – Cllr Mrs Lyle gave a brief update following the meeting of the Trustees. Due to the heavy rainfall the project was extremely behind and would not be seeded until August. A meeting had been arranged for 7th February 2020 with Agrofactors when the liability for flooding and further remedial measures would be discussed.
- Car park
 - i. Salt bins – these were redundant following the updating of SPC’s policy on gritting due to the insurance liability. It was agreed the bins would remain until the spring when a decision would be made on what to do with them.
 - ii. Pillars at entrance to LG carpark –The Assistant Clerk had obtained quotations for a wooden bollard to be installed to try to prevent further damage to the pillars. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk would instruct Tate Fencing to install a 1.5m high bollard up to the value of £300 and liaise with them regarding the location.

b. **The Green at Langton Green** – An Urbaser rubbish truck had driven over the Green leaving tyre tracks and the Clerk had complained to TWBC asking for the area to be made good. He was obtaining the contact details for Urbaser to deal with them directly.

c. **The Green at Groombridge** - Green Erosion: a quotation had been received for various options for wooden posts to be placed along the boundary of the Green. Cllr Mrs Soyke had been in contact with the manager of the pub and spoken to residents and it was noted that the granite stones were generally disliked. Different options were discussed and the Assistant Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for some of the granite stones to be replaced with wooden posts. Once an indication of likely costs were known an informed decision in liaison with residents would be made.

d. **Pocket Parks at Speldhurst** – It was **RESOLVED** that the two smaller pockets of land in Roopers, Speldhurst were in future to be referred to as: Orchid Park (larger park with orchids and a bench). It was noted that this parcel of land stretches down to the horse chestnut tree adjacent to number 18. The smaller pocket of land was to be referred to as Oak Tree Park.

e. **The Boundary** – It was **RESOLVED** to carry out the tree maintenance works at a cost of £125.

f. **Signs on Council Land** – The café proprietor had requested a sign to the Pavilion be put up at the entrance to the LG carpark and the Clerk would liaise with KCC. It was **RESOLVED** that ‘**Signs on Council Land**’ would be removed from future agendas.

g. **The Groundsman** – There was nothing to report. It was **RESOLVED** that ‘**The Groundsman**’ would be removed from future agendas.

10. **Trees:** - There was nothing to report.

11. **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported that a sign had fallen down during the recent storms in Shadwell Woods. Cllr Milner would investigate. Cllr Milner advised that he had met the church warden of the Rusthall cemetery with Cllr Mrs Podbury and the church had agreed to get in touch with the Clerk with suggestions on how to prevent dog walkers cutting through hedges and leaving dog-mess on graves.

12. **Items for Information:** There were none.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Chairman