

# Speldhurst Parish Council

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

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009 at 7.45pm  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Waters, Brown, Colley, Ellis, Langridge, Parker, Stevens and Wheeler

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Pauline Lambell - Clerk

Borough Councillor David Jukes  
One member of the public

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Members were present

## **2225 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS :**

**Personal** - Cllr. Colley – Marchiennes, the future – Marchiennes Co-ordinator

**Personal & Prejudicial** - No declarations were received

**2226 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING :** No declarations were received

**2227 MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **18<sup>th</sup> May 2009** and the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on **27<sup>th</sup> May 2009**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed with the following addition being unanimously agreed :

Item 2217 `Cllr Mrs Soyke felt that there was **no** need for a surgery to be held in Ashurst`.

**2228 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** - The meeting was adjourned. Mr Bartlett had forwarded details of the Western Area Committee Meeting with regard to Bradleys Mill, Speldhurst and asked that the Planning Committee take these into consideration should the applicant put in a further planning application.

The meeting was re-opened.

## **2229 Finance Committee – Report by the newly appointed Committee Chairman Cllr. Parker**

Cllr. Parker reported on the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, copies of the Minutes having previously been forwarded to all Members.

**Grant request – St John`s Church, Groombridge.** Cllr. Parker asked for approval to the Committee`s recommendation to a **grant of £3,850** for professional fees representing Work Stages A – D, including Stage One Grant Application, for the roof repairs.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that a grant of £3,850 be awarded for professional fees.

Cllr. Parker advised that the Audit Commission had requested further information with regard to the Annual Return as the Council`s income and expenditure for the previous financial year had exceeded £200,000. The Clerk was endeavouring to contact the internal-auditor for guidance.

**2230 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – June 2009** – Invoices verified by Cllr. Mrs Hull

1.	Trevor Stevens	£ 32.72	2 x saws and chisel
2.	Teambase	£ 136.56	Stationery
3.	KALC	£ 207.00	Councillors Information Day
4.	LGCT	£ 17.25	Hire of Hall
5.	DCC Gibbs	£ 17.23	Plaque for Memorial Bench
6.	Glasdon	£ 494.62	Memorial Bench
7.	Ron Fisher	£ 43.49	Installation of bench
8.	KALC	£ 60.00	Power of Well Being Training
9.	Direct Technical	£ 50.60	Repair to street light at Groombridge
10.	RIP Cleaning	£ 101.20	Canine Refuse
11.	Direct Technical	£ 19.92	Street light maintenance
12.	KCC	£ 567.39	9 x bollards LGRG
14.	Administration and Expenses	£ 2,685.65	
15.	KALC	£ 69.00	Training
16.	Langton Green Allotments	£ 1,620.00	Grant
17.	Langton Green Primary School	£ 400.00	Grant
18.	Speldhurst Bowls Club	£ 924.50	Grant
19.	Hospice in the Weald	£ 600.00	Grant
20.	Speldhurst Fete	£ 500.00	Grant
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 8,547.13</b>	

**2231 Highways Report**

The Clerk had chased Highways on a number of outstanding projects but had received no replies. The Clerk would contact her Highways Liaison Officer when she returned from holiday on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Cllr. Mrs Podbury asked that the Clerk obtain an update on the further parking restrictions in Speldhurst.

**2188 Groombridge Bus Stop and Overgrown Hedges** – nothing to report**2148 Parish Vision (formerly Parish Plan)**

Cllr. Mrs Podbury updated the Council on the Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June, the Minutes having previously been distributed to all Councillors.

The Committee had taken on board the comments made by the Council on the previous letter and approval was given to the revised letter. It was hoped to have 2,000 copies `Your Parish Council` and the letter printed to enable hand delivery by the end of June.

The Committee would be involving the School Councils.

**1825-3 Ashurst Village Play Area / Registering of Common Ground**

Nothing to report.

**2028-3TWBC Affordable Housing Needs Survey**

Meeting arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**2137-4 Lampington Row**

- i) Street enforcement, resident parking permits or restricted parking – put on hold pending feedback on the new crossing and letter sent to parents.

- ii) Letter to parents of Langton Green Primary School expressing concerns of parking in Lampington Row and encouraging parking in the Recreation Ground – letter sent to parents.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a further meeting with the school.

#### **2190 Land in front of the former Watson Hall – in the ownership of the Parish Council**

Cllr. Ellis and the Clerk had met with Brian Hayward who considered that the proposed extension of the raised grassed bank was a good option and would enhance the conservation area. The Clerk had contacted David Crundwell who had agreed to produce a drawing to enable a quotation to be obtained. There was a possibility that TWBC may be in a position to fund this dependent on the work to the Langton Green Memorial.

**2152-6 Ferbies Twitten** – Barrier replaced. No further action.

**2212 Suggestion to consideration to a Public Right of Way** from Wallers to Langton Road – suggestion by Cllr. Mrs Hull.

Cllr. Stevens had made several enquiries and advised that the initiative should lie with the families who wished to use it rather than making it a PROW as this would be very costly (protective fencing would need to be installed and aggregate laid).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** not to take this project further.

**2213 Groombridge Village Traffic Survey** – the Clerk had contacted KHS.

**2214 20mph outside our Primary Schools** – the Clerk had contacted KHS requesting a meeting.

**2215 Marchiennes – the future** – Cllr. Colley advised that the Marchiennes side was very active and the local groups were working well with them but the role of co-ordinator is very frustrating. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Council maintain a low profile and allow existing organisations to operate on their own.

**2216 Additional Dog Bin** (the pathway leading from Barden Road to the Village Hall). The Clerk was asked to contact PCSO Ray Nuttall asking that he liaise with local residents and Ron Fisher to ascertain a suitable and agreeable place for the additional dog waste bin.

**2120-6 BeechTree on The Green** – The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the Trustees Tree Report to Dan Docker who agreed that the Council should be carrying out the work recommended and the Clerk had contacted Tree Work for an estimate. The Council also requested that a further quotation be obtained and ensure that the chosen contractor was adequately insured.

**2232 Parish Council Surgery** – 9<sup>th</sup> June – Langton Green Village Hall. Cllrs. Mrs Podbury, Parker and PCSO Ray Nuttall attended – no members of the public. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries regarding the placing of football goals in the football pitch owned by Ashurst Place.

#### **2233 Matters for Updating from the Minutes dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Nothing to report as all items covered within the Agenda.

#### **2234 Correspondence and Telephone Calls Received – June 2009**

1. Thank you from Speldhurst Pram Race Committee for the grant.
2. Mr Woodcock, Langton Green. Concerns with the overgrown vegetation along the A264 from Dornden Drive towards Tunbridge Wells. *The Clerk had already reported this to KHS.*
3. 2 emails from Mr Malcolm Dowd and Mr Mike Wilcock. Expressing disappointment at the Parish Council's decision not to commission an independent Highways report regarding the access for construction traffic from the A264 and asking us to please re-consider. Please refer to Planning Committee report.

4. Mr Anthony Bartlett – forwarded planning information on Bradleys Mill which he hopes the Planning Committee will take into consideration should a further application be submitted.
5. Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (recommendations for new policy H7). Handed to Cllr. Mrs Soyke
6. SA/SEA Scoping Report for the Town Centres Area Action Plan, Allocations and Development Control Policies DPD`s: Consultation 15 June to 24 July. Handed to Cllr. Mrs Podbury

### **2235 CHAIRMAN`S REPORT**

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys reported on the Chairman`s Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Following consultation with Parish Councils on the Borough entry signs, TWBC would then consult with Highways.

Applause Rural Touring an organisation which supports performance arts events in rural and local venues such as village halls. These events can help raise the profile of Parish Councils. It was suggested that this could be considered as part of the Parish Vision project.

Containers for plastic bottles and cans will be distributed soon with the first collections being in July.

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys asked that the Planning Committee inform her of any issues that they have in readiness for the Chairman`s Meeting in October.

### **2236 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning** – Cllr. Mrs Podbury reported on the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Minutes having previously been forwarded to all Members.

As reported under Correspondence, two emails had been received from Langton Green residents regarding the Middlefield planning application.

Cllr. Mrs Podbury advised that following the decision of the Parish Council in February, it remained the Committee`s recommendation not to take the commissioning of a report further and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Dowd accordingly.

**Recreation Ground** – Report by Cllr. Ellis. There was nothing to report from the meeting arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> May as both Cllr. Ellis and the Clerk had been unable to attend. Cllr. Ellis advised that there had been some trouble on the recreation ground with a bonfire and lots of bottles and cans being left behind.

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stevens informed the meeting that a Footpaths Meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> May, the Minutes having previously been forwarded to all Members. Cllr. Stevens advised that his fellow Committee Members had voted against changing the Committee name.

**KALC** – Nothing to report. Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

### **2237 DIARY DATES**

20<sup>th</sup> June – KALC - Councillors Information Day 10am – 4pm.

22<sup>nd</sup> June – Meeting with Internal Auditor – 7.30pm Committee Room - Langton Green Village Hall

24<sup>th</sup> June – Power of Well Being – Sevenoaks

27<sup>th</sup> June – Speldhurst Village Fete

4<sup>th</sup> July – Langton Village Fete

14<sup>th</sup> July – Surgery, Speldhurst Village Hall 2.30 – 3.30pm

27<sup>th</sup> July – Affordable Housing Needs Survey Meeting – 7.30pm LGVH

**2237 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Cllr. Mrs Soyke asked if the Clerk would contact Highways regarding the Ashurst verges. Residents would be happy to meet with Highways to discuss the maintenance of these areas.

Cllr. Mrs Soyke advised that the Horse Chestnut tree on The Green looked in a very bad way. The Clerk was asked to contact TWBC.

**2238 DISCUSSION ON THE CLERK`S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

Cllr. Brown advised that a probationary clause had been added to the Contract.

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys proposed that the contract be accepted by the Council and this was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Brown was asked to forward a copy to the Clerk for the file and also send a copy of the Job Description for the Clerk`s comments.

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

CHAIRMAN