



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 1st OCTOBER 2012 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 (arrived 8.15pm), Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Turner and Woodward

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

Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were four members of the public present
Dr M Davies, Fr M Gentry, D Gillinder and S Christie (Courier)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Pendleton (illness)

12/307 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS: There were none.

12/308 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none

12/309 MINUTES: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **3rd September 2012**, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

12/310 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer reported that as part of the Localism Act the Standards Board has been abolished. The first meeting of the new joint Committee combining Complaints and Audit was held last week. He said that car parking charges are not going to be increased and that TWBC was praised by the Auditors for its book-keeping and value for money. He expressed concern at the surface condition of several roads off Newlands in Langton Green. Cllr Mrs Podbury and the Clerk are attending a Highways meeting on 8th October and will ask about the programming of works.

12/311 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Members of the public were present to speak in connection with grant applications below.

12/312 STANDING ORDERS- FINANCIAL REGULATIONS: It was **AGREED** to adopt the new version of the Standing Orders – Financial Regulations.

12/313 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that in her absence Cllr Hemming chaired the Committee Meeting held on 17th September and the minutes have been circulated.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had been one email decision in the last month; it was agreed to pay 50% (£214.00) of the cost of four new bicycle racks to be attached to the wall by the Parish Council Office. Langton Green Charitable Trust will pay the balance of 50%.
- iii) The Reserves on one year deposit mature in October. It was **AGREED** to delegate the reinvestment decision to the Finance Committee using email authority.
- iv) Dr Martin Davies of All Saints' Church Langton Green advised that it is the intention of the Church to replace the twelve existing gas heaters which have reached the end of their life with twelve new air blown heaters at a cost of £28,560.00 including VAT. They have made several grant applications but the only favourable response to-date is from The Friends of All Saints' Church who have offered £5,000. There is £5,000 in Church funds for the project and they hope to raise £10,000 from the Congregation. Cllr Langridge suggested two other bodies that they approach for grant funding. After discussion it was proposed and **AGREED** by a vote of 6 in favour and 5 against to grant up to £9,000 in the next financial year subject to this figure being reduced if they are successful in obtaining further grant funding.
- v) Dan Gillinder of Langton Green Primary School advised that he has obtained a lower quotation of £8,690.00 for the fencing from Tate Fencing because the PTA will clear the ground in advance of the fencing work. After discussion it was **AGREED** by a vote of 9 in favour, 2 against with 1 abstention (due to a child attending the School) to grant £8,690.00.
- vi) The grant request from 1st Speldhurst and Langton Scout Group for a trailer was discussed. It was **AGREED** by a vote of 11 in favour and 1 against to grant £3,000.00 subject to appropriate insurance and security measures.

12/314 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Horne

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Additional Payments in September not listed</u>			
BT PLC	DD	206.31	Telephone Bill
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
Allsigns	MT22	150.00	50% cost ownership sign
<u>Payments in October</u>			
M R Lawrence	023	400.00	Mowing and strimming
Mrs J Podbury	024	30.00	Chairman's allowance
Mr E Langridge	025	33.98	Footpath chemicals
Miss K Lawrence	026	15.00	Cleaner
Langton Green Rural Society	027	112.00	Broadband at fete
J S Taylor	028	148.80	LGRG lighting bollards
RIP Cleaning Services	029	216.00	Dog bin emptying
HMRC	030	699.48	Tax & NI
M R Lawrence	031	160.00	Mowing and strimming
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT24	15.96	Car park keys
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT25	61.70	Meeting room hire
Mr L Cooper	MT26	100.00	Groundsman
C May	MT27	1,355.77	Salary
C May	MT28	16.65	Expenses
M Flemington	MT29	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	MT30	45.10	Expenses
Audit Commission	MT31	1,050.00	2011/12 audit fee
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	53.00	Non-domestic rates
Mr L Cooper	MT32	120.00	Additional work
Total payments		£5,256.85	

12/315 HIGHWAYS REPORT: Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that 50mph signs have been erected on Groombridge Hill and the approach to Ashurst, Stone Cross and the A264 is due to be completed in November/December (weather permitting). She said that maintenance work will be carried out in Bullingstone Lane in October. A speed watch session was held with the Police on 21st September and although they were appreciative of the Police efforts it left many questions going forward. It was **AGREED** that the Highways Committee would formulate a list of questions for C.I. Faulconbridge for the meeting on 5th November and that these would be sent to her in advance of the meeting by the Clerk.

12/316 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- i) Representatives of Langton Green Sports Club will be at the Open Meeting on 8th October with plans and details of their proposals for the Pavilion.

12/317 FIRST AID: It was **AGREED** that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk attend an Emergency First Aid at Work Course at Pepenbury at the cost of £40/head.

12/318 OCTOBER OPEN MEETING ON 8TH OCTOBER AT LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL: Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm with the meeting starting at 8.00pm. Cllr Turner will speak about Neighbourhood Planning and seek additional volunteers for the Working Group.

12/319 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WREATHS: It was **AGREED** to purchase four wreaths from The British Legion to donate to each of the Churches in the Parish. It was also **AGREED** that an additional wreath be purchased for Langton Green Rural Society and they will reimburse the Parish Council for the cost.

12/320 LANGTON GREEN CHARITABLE TRUST: The Clerk advised that Mrs Marianne Buckley is willing to stand for re-nomination as the Parish Council's representative for another year. This was **AGREED**.

12/321 LANGTON GREEN RURAL SOCIETY: Cllr Parker reported that the Rural Society is intending to install "village gates" (decorative gates on verges by the side of the road) at the entrances to Langton Green. They are not requesting any grant from Speldhurst Parish Council. They hope that the gates would also be a speeding deterrent.

12/322 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she had attended the Parish Chairman's Meeting at TWBC on 4th September. It included discussion on social and affordable housing and Neighbourhood Development Plans. She advised that the TWITA safety car can be booked to attend local events, schools etc.

12/323 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (in Cllr Pendleton's absence) reported that a Governance Committee meeting will be held on 15th October.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that there are numerous planning applications in the Parish at present. The last Planning Committee meeting was held on 11th September and the next one is on 2nd October.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that an Amenities Committee meeting was held on 10th September. He has removed the three dead trees by the container and will discuss suitable replacement species with Speldhurst Nurseries. The Clerk reported that he is meeting Dan Docker TWBC Tree Officer on 3rd October at the Pocket Park, Speldhurst to discuss the tree report. Consideration is to be given to use of the overflow car park at busy times. It is proposed to purchase a multi-tool type strimmer. It was **AGREED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported that various jobs have been carried out in the last month and that KCC have indicated that they will carry out repairs to the worst affected areas of the Bridleway in Shadwell Wood.

- v) Broadband – Cllr Woodward reported that there has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting. He advised that TWBC have indicated that they are going forward with the bid for DEFRA funding in conjunction with Sevenoaks District Council and that KCC are likely to make forward funding available.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there has been no KALC Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- vii) Neighbourhood Planning Working Group – Cllr Turner reported that a further meeting of the Working Group will be held after the Open Meeting.
- viii) Environment Working Group – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that there has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting and there is not one planned at present.

12/324 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6th AUGUST 2012:

The Clerk reported that he has two alternative quotations for the replacement finger post outside St Mary's Church, Speldhurst. A decision will be made at the Finance Committee meeting on 22nd October. Cllr Milner said that the finger post in Langton Green is also in a poor state of repair. The tree planting in Furzefield Avenue and Southfields, Speldhurst is planned to go ahead in November.

12/325 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1. Letter dated 1st September from Kent County Council Enterprise and Environment regarding Household Waste Recycling Centre changes
- 2. Letter dated 7th September from Wybone with their catalogue of litter and recycling bins
- 3. Letter dated 7th September from CPRE Protect Kent with details of their Conference on 26th November "Planning for drought – Is Kent in crisis?"
- 4. ACRK Rural News Issue 121
- 5. CPRE Fieldwork Publication Autumn 2012
- 6. Notification from CPRE Protect Kent of their AGM on Saturday 6th October at 11.00am at Bewl Water, Lamberhurst
- 7. Thank you card dated 14th September from Audrey Stuart-Black thanking Cllr Mrs Jeffreys for the flowers she sent on behalf of Speldhurst Parish Council on her retirement as editor of Speldhurst News
- 8. Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd brochure and price list of bus shelters
- 9. Unity Trust Bank Newsletter September 2012
- 10. Email from Roger Mallett with details and invitation to Councillors and the Clerk to the LGCT AGM on Thursday 11th October at 8.00pm in Langton Green Village Hall
- 11. Email from the owner of Blooming Perfect at Groombridge complaining about signs she has had made and TWBC have told her to take them down. **The Clerk to write.**
Cllr Woodward left the meeting at 9.35pm.

12/326 DIARY DATES:

- 1. Tuesday 2nd October – Planning Committee Meeting – Parish Council Office
- 2. Thursday 4th October – SLCC Local Kent Branch AGM – Clerk attending
- 3. Monday 8th October – **Autumn Open Meeting** – Langton Green Village Hall, Main Hall – **8.00pm**
- 4. Thursday 11th October – LGCT AGM – Langton Green Village Hall – **8.00pm**
- 5. Monday 15th October – Governance Committee Meeting – Parish Council Office – **10.00am**
- 6. Monday 22nd October – Finance Committee Meeting – Parish Council Office
- 7. Monday 5th November – **Full Council Meeting** – Ashurst Village Hall, Main Hall – **7.00pm (C.I. Faulconbridge to address the meeting at 7.00pm)**

The dates and venues for Full Council and Finance Committee meetings for 2013 have been circulated. The July date for the Finance Committee meeting will be confirmed in due course.

12/327 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that there are some issues with the distribution of TWBC Local Magazine. She also reported that at the JTB meeting this evening there was discussion regarding the road works in Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells and the issue of parking on pavements.

Cllr Mrs Podbury advised of a meeting to be held on 30th November at 7.30pm in the Camden Centre with Greg Clark MP and CPRE as speakers.

Cllr Langridge reported that at busy times cars have been parking on the corner at The Hare and encroaching into the carriageway. **The Clerk is to write to The Hare.**

Cllr Milner reported that he and three other Councillors attended the KALC Localism Conference on 29th September and it was considered to be of mixed benefit.

The Assistant Clerk reported that the Diamond Jubilee grant recipients' reports have been received with the exception of Langton Green Primary School. The booklets of reports and photographs will be available at the Open Meeting on 8th October.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.48pm

CHAIRMAN