



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6th February 2017 at 7.30pm  
IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Price, Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Allen, Kerby, Mercieca, Parker.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor John Davies and Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were 2 members of the public present

**17/024 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.

**17/025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Turner (holiday) and Borough Councillor David Jukes (prior engagement).

**17/026 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**17/027 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**17/028 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **9<sup>th</sup> January 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**17/029 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

- County Councillor Davies advised that it is budget setting week and that the recommendation is for 1.99% plus 2% for social care.
- Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer said that parking is currently a big issue with TWBC. The Council will spend £6m on upgrading and expanding the Crescent Road carpark however the 90 new spaces will not be sufficient to meet the town's needs. He noted that the objections to the new Premier Inn were mainly due to parking issues. He also said that the cycling strategy will not suit everyone.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke noted that the rebuilding of Union House by Dandara had been permitted and this will also impact on the parking issues.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury agreed that parking is currently a big problem for TWBC. She confirmed that the public consultation of residents' parking had been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**17/030 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Ivan Goodsell advised that he was attending as Chair of Governors at Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School to support their application for a grant towards the installation of a 3 phase electricity supply and upgrading of the water and gas supplies to ensure compliance with current recommendations. Mr Goodsell explained that the school had qualified for a grant of 90% of the upgrade from

the Diocese and the school is required to fund 10% of the £50K overall cost. Currently the school's PTA is funding educational projects and they are unable to contribute towards the installation.

Marianne Buckley was there to observe the meeting

#### 17/031 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- a) The Chairman reported that there had been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) Budget virements - all virements will be reviewed at the next Finance Meeting, which is being held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February, and recommendations made to Full Council's March meeting.
- c) Interim payments - the following interim payments have been made  
Current Account: £600 to KCC Highways to start the design process for the advisory lights in Langton; £60 to the web company for maintenance; £1,023.69 (inc VAT) quarterly electricity bill (pavilion); £87 Veolia; £30 mobile.  
Mastercard: £19.95 kettle (pavilion); £18.90 refreshments for the Environment workshop; £59.94 key safe (pavilion); £15.90 badges.
- d) The following payments have been made under delegated authority since the Finance Meeting: £19.95 kettle, £18.90 refreshments; £59.94 key safe; £15.90 badges.
- e) After comparing two quotes it was **RESOLVED** to approve the installation of a new DDA compliant footpath from the car park to the pavilion with concrete edging by Landscape Services at a cost of £6,127.65.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the additional costs of repairing playground equipment of £1,252 by the Barge Group.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** by a majority decision not to donate to the refurbishment of the Counselling Centre.
- h) It was **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £250 to the Samaritans.
- i) It was **RESOLVED** by a majority decision to contribute £150 to Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association towards the installation of a defibrillator if it was not covered by the grant they receive from the Kent Community Fund.
- j) It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £2,500 to Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School towards the utilities upgrade. The school was advised to reapply in the next financial year if there is a shortfall when SPC will have a clearer understanding of its financial position.
- k) It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £2,400 towards the quote from Coppards for repairing the footpath through the churchyard at St Mary's Church.
- l) It was **RESOLVED** not to contribute towards Freya Zaborski's trip with the British Exploring Society because it was felt SPC should give grants for projects that will benefit the community as a whole. It was agreed to write a letter to Ms Zaborski and advise her to approach the Langton Green Village Society and the Rotary Club of Tunbridge Wells who have donated towards such projects in the past.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked that the following changes to the Unity Bank mandate be agreed and minuted; that Kate Plunkett be removed and Kate Harman be added as having an access level denoting view and submit to the account. This was agreed by Council.

#### 17/032 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Lyle

##### To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
Ranger Electrical	MT955	237.60	Installation cooker
Shaw & Sons	MT956	38.46	Stationery
Queensbury Shelters	MT957	2,302.30	Repair Bus Stop
Viking Direct	MT958	69.49	Stationery
Viking Direct	MT959	47.95	Stationery
Knockout Print	MT960	325.00	Newsletters: Design & Print
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT961	710.80	Repair to fencing
Paul Cheater	MT962	72.00	Cleaning Pavillion

Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT963	8.00	Room hire
Mr L Cooper	MT964	25.72	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT965	11.70	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT966	11.70	Expenses
K Plunkett	MT967	28.80	Expenses
C May	MT968	33.78	Expenses
KALC	MT973	72.00	Training
RIP Cleaning Services	MT974	172.80	Canine Refuse
Mr L Cooper	MT969	639.74	Salary
Kate Harman	MT970	562.08	Salary
C May	MT971	1,303.61	Salary
NEST	MT972	25.18	Pension Contributions February
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>6,698.71</b>	

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

**17/033 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE:** A meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and the minutes had been circulated. Cllr Milner said that the current appeal for Speedwatch participants hadn't yet produced as many volunteers as needed. He asked Councillors to consider signing up by way of an example to the general public. 20mph project – it was **RESOLVED** to engage the services of KCC to carry out the consultation of the 20mph zone in Speldhurst at a cost of £700.

**17/034 BOUNDARY CHANGE:** Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that SPC's list of recommendations had been given to TWBC and that SPC should wait until the impact on the precept has been identified before making any definite decisions. Cllr Mrs Podbury will report back to Council once she has received this information from TWBC.

**17/035 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

- Cllr Turner has advised Cllr Mrs Lyle that he is no longer able to carry out the fire risk assessment due to a new job so Cllr Mrs Lyle is now looking for someone to complete this requirement.
- The Premises Licence and the Music & Performance Licence have both now been obtained.
- The Cricket Club's usage and terms including payments had now all been agreed and that the first payment for the container will follow shortly. Cllr Kerby asked how the matter of damage caused by high-flying cricket balls had been resolved. Cllr Lyle confirmed they were taking a "wait and see" attitude and that the Cricket Club would be expected to make either a contribution to the repairs or payment towards the excess of an insurance claim should it occur.
- The Ladies Stool ball team have shown interest in using the recreation ground.
- The Football Foundation have confirmed their use for the summer.
- The Pavilion was taking a variety of bookings including parties, a PTA event and children's parties.
- SPC have been reimbursed by the Sports Association £600 for the electricity bill prior to handover.
- The café is doing well and they will open for two days during half-term. They are considering how to approach the summer holidays.
- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that bearing in mind the initial set up costs, the income so far was looking pleasing. She said she expects the café to continue after the trial period ends in April at which point the rates would probably go up.
- Cllr Milner enquired regarding advertising for the pavilion and Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that it was currently being advertised in the Newsletter and Langton Life.
- The electricity bill was high and Cllr Mrs Lyle was monitoring usage.
- Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked Cllr Mrs Lyle and acknowledged all the hard work she had put into the pavilion. Cllr Mrs Lyle also thanked the Clerk for his help.

County Councillor John Davies left the meeting at 8.43 pm.

**17/036 PARISH PLAN:**

- Working party – there was nothing to report.
- Planning Committee review of the plan implementation – Cllr Mrs Horne advised that the three actions raised in the Parish Plan had been covered by the document ‘Action Plan for Planning Committee in response to concerns raised in Parish Plan published December 2016’. It was **RESOLVED** that this document would form SPC’s response.
- Cllr Barrington-Johnson advised the following:-  
A letter had been received from the office of the Chief Constable of Kent Police regarding making an appointment to visit SPC.  
The bus company who provide bus services between Rusthall, Langton and Speldhurst are undertaking a study to see how viable it would be for them to provide a permanent service between these villages.  
No response had been received from the Post Office regarding reinstating a service in Langton Green.  
No response had been received from Highways.  
He would make further enquiries into the train service to Ashurst before making representations.

**17/037 NEWSLETTER:** A rota for the distribution of the newsletter in Speldhurst was to be drawn up by Cllr Milner.

**17/038 TWBC KEEP BRITAIN TIDY – GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN** Cllr Barrington-Johnson advised that Langton Green Village Society is carrying out a tidy up on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward the information to Cllr Mrs Horne, who would speak to Jess Watson at Speldhurst Primary School to see if their ‘Eco Warrior club’ could undertake a tidy up in a safe area in Speldhurst and Cllr Mrs Lyle, who will contact the Primary School in Langton Green. The possibility of a tidy up in Speldhurst is to be considered for the spring.

**17/039 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** There was no report.

**17/040 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – The next Governance meeting is to be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in the SPC offices when several of the existing policies will be reviewed.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Horne requested that the Borough Councillors reported back when possible regarding the call for sites.  
**Local Green Space** – Cllrs Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury are to speak to Kelvin Hinton at TWBC to obtain the actual requirements for SPC’s response. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Price would prepare a first draft of SPC’s response and report back to Full Council once this had been done.
- c) **Amenities** – there was nothing to report. A meeting was scheduled for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported there had been a meeting at Gatwick on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Complaints have been received that the Noise Management Board is ineffective which he disagreed with. Cllr Barrington-Johnson requested that the Committee be granted the authority to respond to the GAL Night Flights Consultation on behalf of the Council. This was agreed.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that he had been in contact with KCC regarding small works and clearance. A session for repairs has been organised for 11<sup>th</sup> May. KCC have advised that the budget for footpath repairs and maintenance work will be at a low-level, similar to previous years.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson advised that the next meeting of the area committee will be held in the Village Hall in Langton and the Clerk will be taking the minutes.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Price reported on the workshop which had gone well with about 23 attendees. She advised that the working group is being established and that they have volunteers to join it from the public but she needed one or two Councillors to help. Cllrs Mrs Horne and Allen said they will assist. The working group will be moving forward with progressing issues raised on the Parish Plan.

**17/041 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017:** No other matters.

**17/042 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

1. Email from Rebecca Williams from Rural Kent regarding a Rural Kent Coffee and Information Project.
2. A letter from David Neve, Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, thanking SPC for their donation towards the Toy Appeal.
3. A letter from Miss Sonya Gransden, Staff Officer to the Chief Constable in response to Cllr Barrington-Johnson's letter of 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 regarding visiting SPC to discuss the concern raised in the Parish survey about speeding traffic.

**17/043 DIARY DATES:**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – Full Council, Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Planning Committee

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Governance Committee 11.00am

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Finance Committee meeting

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – KALC meeting, Gallery Room, Langton Green Village Hall

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Amenities Committee

**March 2017**

**3/4/5 March** – TWBC Great British Spring Clean

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Full Council, Committee Room, Speldhurst Village Hall

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

**17/044 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: -**

- Cllr Mrs Horne asked the Clerk to find out more information about Kent Community Foundation grants and whether the Council can access them.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that she had attended a Social Media and Communications workshop and recommended that 2 people attend next time.
- Cllr Mrs Price said that some members of the original Parish Plan Working Group were concerned about the progress of the Parish Plan.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.22pm.

Chairman