



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6TH JUNE 2016 at 7.30pm
IN THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Soyke, Allen, Mercieca, Parker and Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer was present.

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present, Mr Peter Soyke and Mrs Marianne Buckley who is a Trustee of the Langton Green Village Hall (LGVH)

16/107 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.

16/108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllr Barrington-Johnson (holiday), Cllr Kerby (holiday) and Borough Councillor David Jukes (business engagement).

16/109 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: No-one had any interest to declare.

16/110 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: No-one had been lobbied.

16/111 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **9th May 2016** and Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **25th April 2016** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/112 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer commented that the land at The Boundary in Langton Green, now under Parish Council ownership, was being well maintained. The Clerk explained that some of the land was actually maintained by residents but the large section of uneven ground near the top of the road had recently started being maintained by Landscape Services who were contracted by the Council.

Borough Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that a decision was due to be voted on at the next Full Council regarding the use of the civic buildings because a potential tenant had been identified who would like to take up tenancy by 2018. The decision would include whether more detailed plans would be drawn up.

16/113 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Marianne Buckley said that she represented the Trustees of LGVH and she wanted to be sure that all Councillors were aware of an incident that happened a few weeks ago when there was a problem with a private hirer at the Hall whose guests could not park because of a large football event that was taking place and footballers were also using the toilets in the hall which were meant to be for the exclusive use of

the private hirer. She said that Langton Green Community Sports Association (LGCSA) needed to improve communication with the LGVH Trustees and let them know when big events are being held. Many Councillors were unaware of the incident and agreed that improvements were necessary.

Regarding the toilets Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that this year was a particular issue but the new pavilion will have toilets and therefore this problem should not recur once the pavilion is up and running.

The Clerk said that the issues raised by Mrs Buckley were brought to his attention by the Chairman of the Trustees, Roger Mallett late on May 9th, which was too late for the Full Council meeting. He had responded, after consulting the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the LGCSA, with suggestions to improve the issues raised and had received an email back from the Chairman thanking him for his constructive reply which was appreciated by the Trustees. He had considered the matter resolved and it was to be discussed further at the next Amenities meeting. The Clerk suggested that communications between Mrs Buckley and him could be improved so that when she was representing the Council on the Trust she was more aware of Council issues. Cllr Parker added that the car park is public and therefore anyone can use it. He said that spaces used to be allocated to hall users. The Clerk said that the LGCSA had recommended more spaces be allocated for the Hall users and this was part of the original communique with the Chairman.

16/114 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- a) A finance meeting was held on 2nd June and the minutes were distributed at the beginning of this meeting.
- b) There have been 2 budget virements from Earmarked Reserves which required Full Council approval - £669 for fencing around the children's play area at LGRG and £389 for the repair of the cable seat ride at LGRG. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve both virements.
- c) There have been no interim payments since the Finance Meeting.
- d) No payments have been made under delegated authority since the Finance meeting.
- e) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that Full Council had previously made an in principle agreement to purchase a Container for the LGCC at a cost of approximately £5k. The LGCSA has sourced three Containers and one of these will be for the LGCC. It will be partially clad in wood to match the new pavilion. The floor of the LGCC Container will need to be reinforced due to the weight of the roller which will be housed in it. The final cost of the Container is therefore still unknown but it is expected to be in the region of £5k. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked for approval to spend the £5k and said that the Finance Committee had also approved that an extra £1k can be spent by two authorised nominees of the Finance Committee for urgent expenditure on the pavilion during the final stages of construction. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested that SPC purchase the Container and retain ownership and rent it to LGCC.
- f) The Committee approved the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference which had not been changed.

16/115 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mercieca

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
Speldhurst Village Fund	300217	407.01	Grant re fete insurance
Speldhurst News	300218	10.00	Postage re monthly magazine
Unipar Services LLP	MT	169.20	Speedwatch tripod
Cory Environmental Services	MT799	936.00	Litter bin services
RIP Cleaning Services	MT800	172.80	Canine Refuse
MR Lawrence	MT801	635.00	Mowing and hedgework
Commercial Services Trading	MT802	1,926.46	Bollards LGVH
Tate Fencing	MT803	370.80	Repair damage to wooden posts
Tate Fencing	MT804	868.80	Repair damaged bin store and post
Tate Fencing	MT805	802.80	Repair playground fencing
Treework	MT806	1,080	Trees reduced

Dave's Computer Repairs	MT807	424.93	Installation new computers
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT808	36.00	Meeting rooms
Mr L Cooper	MT809	452.00	Groundsman's duties
K Plunkett	MT810	40.50	Expenses
C May	MT811	14.40	Expenses
St Marys Church	MT815	800.00	Churchyard maintenance
Ashurst McDermott Hall Sports	MT816	166.81	Grant re raft race insurance
RIP Cleaning Services	MT817	172.80	Canine Refuse Collection
BT Plc	DD	295.77	BB and land lines
C May	MT812	1,115.45	Salary
K Plunkett	MT813	646.01	Salary
Kent County Council	DD	312.19	Photocopier
HMRC	MT814	3,651.28	NI and tax (Quarterly)
Total payments		15,537.01	

*Payment made under the Clerk's delegated authority

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

16/116 HIGHWAYS:

There has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting. Cllr Milner reported that the mobile SID is now in operation in Langton Green near the Water Tower. The SID will be moved around the Parish every two weeks. Speedwatch activity has increased. The Clerk has been in contact with TW Police Commander Pate about the various speed limits on Speldhurst Road and the problem of pavement parking. The Committee had suggested that Councillors be allowed to place notices on vehicles known to park regularly blocking the pavement and the Clerk had sent them an example. The police have asked for some changes before the warning notice about pavement parking is finalised and the Clerk will clarify exact wording requirements. Notices will be left on cars which are causing a problem rather than *all* cars parked on pavements but repeat offenders will be specifically targeted.

Cllr Milner said that the residents of Mead House have made attempts to improve the verge opposite their house which was used for construction vehicles working at Mead House. The residents have suggested they purchase some large boulders to prevent further parking on the verge which is preventing the grass from growing. Councillors agreed this could improve the situation and prevent further deterioration of the verge.

16/117 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- It was **RESOLVED** to give permission to Langton Green Village Society for parking on part of the Recreation Ground on the day of their fete (Saturday 2nd July)
- It was **RESOLVED** to give permission to Langton Green Primary School for parking on part of the Recreation Ground on their Sports Day (Friday 1st July)
- Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had circulated an update about the Pavilion in advance of the meeting. She discussed the safety measures being considered by the Cricket Club to protect the pavilion including temporary nets and boarding across windows nearest the cricket square. She suggested introducing a local rule which says that you are out if you hit the building which has been successfully introduced at other local clubs. It was **RESOLVED** to ask the LGCC for the local rule to be introduced. SPC will also request to see the LGCC insurance documents before the first game takes place. SPC has liability for all maintenance of the building including broken glass. She asked if a Councillor could attend the first home match on August 7th.
Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that a Premises Licence would be required and this issue would be added to the Agenda of the Amenities Committee. Refuse collection for the pavilion will also require discussion.
- Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had distributed a document detailing the misunderstanding between SPC and the LGCSA about the leases. 'She summarised that, while SPC had confidence in its interpretation of the lease arrangement, there was little point in entering into a legal battle with LGCSA as both parties have the same end goal. There followed much discussion of the issues. It was **RESOLVED** to ask LGCSA to contribute 30% of the costs of running the pavilion and 30% of an annual maintenance fund for future maintenance work. The

30% figure is to match the 30% free use of the pavilion the LGSCA have asked for. Councillors also **RESOLVED** to request a review of the terms of the management agreement after one year and every two years thereafter.

Cllr Turner said that in terms of managing the booking and administration of the pavilion, the person who runs the morning coffee shop should take on this responsibility. The Clerk clarified that the LG Primary School would not be hiring the pavilion for a breakfast club as previously suggested.

Cllr Mrs Lyle offered to help Cllr Jeffreys with legal details for the management agreement as she has a legal background. It was agreed to consult the SPC solicitor before signing the agreement.

16/118 Kent County Council Consultation: It was agreed that this consultation is for individuals to respond and does not require a response from SPC

16/119 KALC Councillors Conference: The Clerk asked Councillors interested in attending to contact him.

16/120 TWBC ‘Love where we live awards’: The Clerk said that details need to be submitted with any nomination and Councillors should contact him if they wish to nominate anyone or an organisation. The deadline is 29th July.

16/121 Newsletter Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested including a photo of the new pavilion and also an article about the new Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs Soyke.

16/122 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Nothing to report.

16/123 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Parker said there had been no meeting and there was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Horne said there was nothing to report.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 20th June.
- d) **Air Traffic** – There was no report but it was noted that an update had been sent out by Greg Clark today.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that he had received an email from Mark Rees complaining about persons riding motorbikes in Shadwell Woods and suggested that they should be reported to the Police.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – there was nothing to report
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner said that there had been a meeting in May and the Plan was progressing. The biggest issue still to be resolved is planning. Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that the SPC Environment Policy be added to the Planning Committee’s next agenda.

16/124 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9th MAY 2016: No other matters.

16/125 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Postcard/ letter from Odile (Marchiennes) addressed to Cllr Mrs Jeffreys.
2. Email dated 9th May from Speldhurst Pram Race organisers thanking us for the grant.

16/126 DIARY DATES:

Sat/ Sun 4/5th June – Football Fiesta LGRG
Monday 6th June – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall
Monday 13th June – Planning meeting- Office
Tuesday 14th June – Clerks’ Conference – Sutton Valence
Tuesday 14th June – Local Plan Review – TWBC 6.30pm
Tuesday 14th June – Chairman’s Meeting – TWBC 7.00pm
Saturday 18th June – Speldhurst Village Fete – 11.30am – 4.30pm
Monday 20th June – Amenities meeting
Wednesday 22nd June – Rude Mechanicals Open Theatre – LGRG
Sunday 26th June – LGPS Fete 12 noon – 3pm
Saturday 2nd July – LGVS Fete 12 noon – 5pm

Monday 4th July – Full Council Meeting –LGVH Palmer Room

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

16/127 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Lyle said that travellers had moved onto the Common in Tunbridge Wells.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman