



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7TH MARCH 2016 at 7.30pm  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Allen, Mercieca, Milner, Parker and Turner.

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

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no members of the public present.

**16/042 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.

**16/043 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Lyle (prior engagement) and Borough Councillor David Jukes (prior engagement).

**16/044 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**16/045 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**16/046 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **1st February 2016** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**16/047 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer said that the Borough Council Tax was to be increased by just under 4% and that considering the last minute problems with a reduction in a grant, he considered this quite an accomplishment.

County Councillor John Davies said that he nothing specific to report and invited questions from the Council. The Clerk said that SPC's 20mph project was stalling and Cllr Davies replied that he was having similar problems with a project he was funding in Royal Chase. The Clerk said he would be approaching Clive Pearman (Deputy in Charge of Highways and Transport) who has previously said that resources would be made available to manage projects such as this.

**16/048 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were no members of the public present.

**16/049 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Soyke**

- a) The next Finance Meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March ahead of the financial year end of 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- b) There have been no budget virements.

- c) There have been three interim payments since the last meeting – all on the ALTO card; refreshments at The Hare, a new blower for the Groundsman (£250) and stationery of £15.97.
- d) The stationery purchase of £15.97 was made under the Clerk's delegated authority.
- e) The Council **RESOLVED** to fund the insurance cost of Speldhurst Village Pram Race noting that the payment would be made in the next financial year (approx. £328).
- f) The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £750 from Warren Eburn, Prestige Web Marketing Ltd – for re-designing the SPC website. The Clerk noted that Councillors will have the opportunity to comment and approve the new website before it goes live.
- g) The Council **RESOLVED** to renew CPRE membership at £36 pa.
- h) The Council **RESOLVED** to renew ACRK membership at £50 pa.

#### 16/050 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Turner

##### Payment to be made by ALTO pre-paid card

CWCS	AO94	150.00	Domain renewal
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##### 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
Chiddingstone Parish Council	212	49.89	HWCAAG
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT731	128.40	maintenance
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT732	64.00	meeting rooms
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT733	121.18	office electricity
Premiere Digital	MT734	180.00	newsletter layout
Premiere Digital	MT735	559.00	newspaper print
Queensbury Shelters Ltd	MT736	6,541.20	bus shelters
Glasdon UK Ltd	MT737	290.56	dog waste bin
Sac O Mat UK Ltd	MT738	695.53	dog waste bags and dispenser
Mr L Cooper	MT739	404.00	groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT740	20.98	groundsman expenses
K Plunkett	MT741	25.20	expenses
C May	MT742	65.64	expenses
Perryhill Nurseries	MT743	29.95	Tree Stonewall Park Rd
RIP Cleaning Services	MT744	162.00	canine refuse collection
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT745	41.00	meeting rooms
HMRC	MT746	2,287.64	NI and tax (3 months)
M Flemington	MT747	45.00	salary
Unity Trust Alto	top up	650.00	top up
J S Taylor	MT750	70.00	Replacement lamp
BT Plc	DD	283.96	Telephone and broadband
K Plunkett	MT748	559.86	Salary
C May	MT749	1,467.20	Salary
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>14,772.19</b>	

\*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

#### 16/051 HIGHWAYS:

There has not been a meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

The Clerk reported that the SID has been ordered and an installation date is awaited. The bus shelters have been installed and the invoice is included in the list for authorisation. The problems with progressing the 20mph scheme will be discussed at the next Highways meeting.

The results of the recent traffic survey on Speldhurst Road have led to KCC Highways suggesting that a reduction in the speed limit to 50mph may be possible. This will also be discussed at the next Highways meeting.

The next Speedwatch session is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, led by Cllr Mrs Soyke.

Cllr Milner reported that a travel plan update has been produced by Langton Green Primary School and the plan to increase the number of children cycling to school is underway. However the lack of a lollipop person to help with the dangerous crossing is an issue. He said that the idea of the walking bus from the car park to the school is also being progressed.

The recent traffic incident where children cross the Speldhurst Road to the school was discussed and the Clerk said that he would like to see some presence from the PCSO on a regular basis. Councillors agreed.

Cllr Milner also noted that there is a Public Transport Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm at the Town Hall.

#### **16/052 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

- a) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that planning permission is not required for the new containers on LGRG as these fall within permitted development rules.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys noted that construction is falling behind schedule and that some weekend working will help to ensure the building is ready for the Football fiesta.

The choice of heating systems was discussed. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked for support for the system recommended by the Amenities Committee which is the energy efficient electric radiators. This is a dry system with low installation costs, low maintenance costs and individual temperature controls.

Cllr Merceica said he was concerned about the high cost of electricity.

The option of bringing gas to the Pavilion was discussed but the £5k installation cost and the fact that a boiler system would require regular maintenance meant that the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the electric system as recommended by the Amenities Committee.

The installation of CCTV was discussed and the Clerk said he had received a revised quote for a reduced specification which would be adequate for the new Pavilion. He said that there are two options, a quote of £6,540 for a mid-range camera and a quote of £5,495.50 for the budget range camera. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve a maximum spend of £6,540 on CCTV but on the condition that the budget range would be selected if it was found to be adequate.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that decisions on lighting, flooring and showers could be made at the next Full Council meeting. The Clerk noted that the bin structure at the LGRG had been damaged by a lorry involved with construction. He would be obtaining quotes for repair which would be forwarded to the builders.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she and the Clerk had visited LGPS and met the Headmaster to discuss whether the School will want to use the new Pavilion. The Headmaster expects to have significant need and he will put a proposal together.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there had been two requests to run a coffee shop and that there would need to be a process for looking at suggestions. The Clerk suggested that the school should be the first priority. Cllr Turner said that a Café would be a good facility for the Community.

- b) Car Parking Licence –The Clerk explained that SPC's solicitor has made a change to the Deed of Easement proposed by KCC. The Solicitor also highlighted that KCC require the accessway to be kept in good repair and condition and he said this should be amended if SPC considered these costs should be shared. There followed a discussion and it was concluded that it was SPC's responsibility. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the document on behalf of SPC.
- c) Parking safety in LGRG car park – Cllr Milner thanked Cllr Merceica for his very thorough report on the LGRG car park. Cllr Merceica noted that he had no major concerns with traffic movements he had seen during the two inspections. He noted that disabled parking spaces were under-utilised but it was thought that the legal requirement for disabled parking spaces had been complied with. Cllr Soyke suggested asking other hall users whether they were aware of under-utilised disabled spaces. Cllr Parker noted that the school is only half way through its expansion program and so the problems with parking may deteriorate in the coming years.

- d) The request for a Charity Car Wash Day from the Langton Green Car Club was discussed and Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the request, subject to an appropriate day being chosen.
- e) The Clerk said that there are two lamp posts not working in the LGRG car park and they need to be fixed. Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the quote of £390 for fixing the lamp outside the office using Thorn parts but on the proviso that the Clerk explores using replica parts to make a saving on this cost. The Clerk was asked to initiate repairs on the second lamp post near to the grass area and to report if the costs were much different.

**16/053 QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:** Councillors agreed that if residents come forward with requests for funding then these can be considered on a case by case basis but no interest has been shown so far.

#### **16/054 TWBC Planning – CALL FOR SITES**

TWBC have identified a requirement of 12,000 units by 2030 rather than the 6,000 units previously thought. It has therefore written to certain individuals and organisations to identify sites and broad locations for housing and economic development within Tunbridge Wells Borough.

This was discussed by Councillors and the Clerk noted that the recent Parish Survey has shown an overwhelming support for the protection of Greenbelt and the AONB. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that considering this the Council should not put sites forward. Councillors **RESOLVED** not to submit a response but noted that landowners may be likely to come forward with proposals.

The Council also discussed the possibility of upgrading from a Parish Plan to a Neighbourhood Plan but currently the costs of approximately £35k are prohibitive. The costs of a neighbourhood plan are expected to reduce significantly in the near future. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that SPC is in a strong position following planning advice and therefore should not need to upgrade to a Neighbourhood Plan as there are no significant plans for the Speldhurst Parish.

#### **16/055 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

As there has been no call for an election, new Councillors will be co-opted. The Clerk said that an interview panel needs to be set up for interviews from 18<sup>th</sup> March. There has been interest from residents in Groombridge and Speldhurst. The interview panel should include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys volunteered to be the third member.

#### **16/056 NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED**

Air Traffic and Amenities require an extra member. Cllr Parker volunteered for the Amenities Committee and it was agreed to wait for the new Councillors before deciding on new members for Air Traffic.

#### **16/057 SIR THOMAS SMYTHE'S CHARITY**

TWBC has suggested that the appointment of Trustees to the Charity be reorganised and presented three areas, TW North, TW South and TW West rather than by village. TWBC then suggested three options for Councils to consider: 1. Stay as we are, 2. Parish Councils coordinate an appointee and 3. Borough Council appoints. It was **RESOLVED** to approve Option 2.

**16/058 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson had nothing to report.

#### **16/059 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – there had been no meeting since the last Full Council and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30am.
- b) **Planning** – a meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> March.
- c) **Amenities** – a meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Mrs Podbury asked that the Alan Passmore memorial plaque be finalised as soon as possible. Cllr Milner agreed to progress this with Sheila Passmore.

Cllr Mrs Podbury also mentioned that litter clearance sessions will be advertised in village newsletters but they would be delayed until there is better weather.

- d) **Air Traffic** – a meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February and the minutes have been circulated. A further meeting will be held after the Gatwick response to the recent report is published, expected at the end of March. Councillors discussed the draft letter recommended by the Air Traffic Committee asking for the Estuary Airport to be re-considered. It was suggested that the letter should be re-worded to say if the Davies report is to be ignored then all options should be considered, including the Estuary option. Cllr Barrington-Johnson will re-draft his letter for consideration at the April meeting.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that some work had been done in Shadwell and Bullingstone Woods and that further work would be undertaken in better weather. He also advised that more shelving is to be purchased for the container.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson referred to the note included in the Full Council papers. He noted that Cranbrook has an election coming up for new Councillors and this will cost in the region of £5k.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – a meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February and the notes have been circulated. There is a further meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**16/060 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1st FEBRUARY 2016:** No other matters.

**16/061 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- 1. Email dated 24<sup>th</sup> February from Veronica Studsgaard referring to a dangerous driving incident outside LGVH
- 2. Letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> February from resident of Ironstones concerning the transfer of land at the Boundary from TWBC.
- 3. Email dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February from Philip Buckle regarding litter left in Langton Green by runners of the TW half marathon.
- 4. Telephone call from local resident complaining about the Caterham Cycling Club holding an event through Langton Green on the same day as the TW Half Marathon.
- 5. Email dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February from the Clerk to the Construction company in charge of the gas works at The Hare about directing traffic through the path that goes past residents houses.
- 6. Letter dated 26 January from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England notifying of the final recommendations following the electoral review of Kent.
- 7. Email dated 25<sup>th</sup> February from KALC re. HGV parking and managing freight vehicles.
- 8. Brochure from Tower Mint advertising commemorative medal for schools for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- 9. Letter dated 12 February from KCC Public Protection notifying of an advice service available for Kent residents – Customer Advice Consumer Service (CACS)
- 10. Email dated 22 February from KCC Consultations re. introducing all-night street lighting.
- 11. Letter dated 10 February from the Samaritans thanking the Council for the grant of £250.
- 12. The Parish News newsletter February 2016.
- 13. Letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> February from S&L Stock Management advertising courier services.

**16/062 DIARY DATES:**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** – Police Contact Point – St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst – **12-1pm**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – PPWG Meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March** – Planning meeting

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Parish Chairman's Meeting, TWBC **7.00pm**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Highways Meeting

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Co-option notice comes down, interviews to be arranged.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Finance Meeting

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March** – Speedwatch session, Ashurst **9.00am(ish)**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Police Contact Point – St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst – **12-1pm**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Governance Meeting -**10.30am**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March** – Good Friday

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Easter Monday

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

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

**16/063 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Merceica said that he had attended a Planning Conference and asked whether SPC should have a waste carrier licence. The Clerk said that he would investigate.

Cllr Allen said that he wanted to hold a speedwatch session on 9<sup>th</sup> March. The Clerk said that he would try to find volunteers; otherwise the session would have to be cancelled.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.09pm

Chairman