



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in The Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Monday 12th March 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Owen and Parker

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Woodward (prior appointment); Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday)
2. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** Cllr Owen declared a personal interest – he has a stepson who attends the Sports Club and his family use the playground
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **The Minutes of 17th October 2011** were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence**
There were no matters arising that are not covered in the Agenda.
6. **Public Open Session**
Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.
There were no members of the public present.
7. **Financial Review**
The figures for the financial year to-date were reviewed against projected budget figures. There were three areas where the budget had been exceeded – Ashurst maintenance, Speldhurst maintenance and the Broadband project. The Clerk explained that there had been prior approval from the Finance Committee on all three exceptions but no virement transfer had been made because the amounts were relatively small. The Clerk explained that some items of expenditure will not be spent in this financial year and will be carried over (e.g. money for the path extension at The Green and money allocated for the Big Tree Plant).

8. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) was meeting today and would update the Council on progress soon afterwards.
- ii. Car Park – parking. The Clerk explained that in the three months he had been in the office the disabled parking bays were being misused. He had spoken to a few users but felt that further notice was required. It was AGREED that an A5 laminated notice would be attached to the posts by the bays indicating that it was a SPC notice and that the bays were for the use of badge holders only and that usage would be monitored. Cllr Parker did not consider regular monitoring a good use of the Clerk's time and the Clerk agreed but said that the monitoring would only be done on a casual basis.
- iii. Maintenance of Grounds – Groundsman's duties. Mr Cooper, the Groundsman is retiring in May from his main employment as a fireman and is available for further duties should the Parish Council have a need. His work for the Council was discussed and all were in favour in principle of him taking on extra duties because he is trained in first aid and was CRB checked. There was no intention that he should become an employee of the Parish Council. Item 13 on the Agenda was discussed under this item and all were in favour of him taking a two day course to be trained as a qualified playground inspector, the cost of which could be offset by saving (in future) the cost of paying for the weekly inspections. Attending a tree course to become a Parish tree warden was also discussed. **The Clerk would investigate the cost of the Groundsman attending the course.**
- iv. Ownership sign – The Clerk would attend to the matter and circulate proposed wording to the committee
- v. Sign re icy/snowy weather – The Committee felt that the wording of the sign could be improved and asked the Clerk to propose new wording.
- vi. Re-cycling – The Clerk explained that he could monitor the re-cycling bins from the office and reported any over flows to TWBC via the website.
- vii. Container – one or more of the following plants were AGREED to be planted by the container once some earth had been removed by the builders – hebes, euonymus, viburnum and privet. Some additional soil would also be required for preparation. Cllr Milner would visit Vista Nurseries in Speldhurst and ask for an invoice to be sent to the Clerk who would obtain the necessary authorisation.

9. Trees in the Parish

- i. The Clerk had asked Treework for an update but had not received a report at the time of the meeting. **Clerk to chase up.**
- ii. The planting of a tree for the Diamond Jubilee in the pocket park was discussed. It was AGREED that a Japanese Acer should be planted with an appropriate plaque. Cllr Milner would again see Vista Nurseries. **Clerk to order a plaque.**
- iii. The Big Tree Plant – the forms have been sent and we are awaiting a response. The Clerk said that any grant received might not be as much as expected because the grant would only be towards the cost of the trees and not the expense of planting due to the presence of services in the ground.

10. Footpath (between Great Footway and Langholm Road)

SE Water had carried out repairs to the manhole covers but the barrier still remained because of concerns of a local resident about youths abusing the footpath on mopeds. **Cllr Milner and the Clerk would inspect the work and ask users for their opinions.**

11. Local Heritage Assets – Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Document

The Committee AGREED in principle to support the TWBC's efforts to create a list of Local Heritage Assets. **The Clerk was requested to contact Alan Legg, the Urban Design Team Leader and relate this.**

12. South East Water Drought Plan

The Committee did not consider a response was necessary.

13. Playground Inspection Report

The Clerk had met with the local representative from Husson UK who had supplied a number of spare parts. The Groundsman had carried out the necessary repairs. The possible cost regarding the footpath behind the ball stop netting had not been looked in to but would be progressed. The accident report book is still outstanding. **The Clerk will progress both issues.**

14. Letter to residents re the Twittens

The question was asked if we still wanted to write or should we monitor the situation this summer. There had been a few complaints about dog fouling and it was AGREED that the Parish Council put up their own signs asking dog owners to help look after the environment. **Clerk to action.**

15. Asset Register

Work is in progress but incomplete.

16. Ashurst Flagpole

The Clerk would contact Alan Legg regarding TWBC's decision on funding the new pole. There was some urgency because it has been requested that it be completed before the Diamond Jubilee.

17. Items for Information

Cllr Owen asked about the Lady who plants wild flowers on the green on the Langton Road by Dornden Drive. He asked if her work could be recognised in some way.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Chairman