



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

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Milner, Ellery, Rowe, Pate, Round, Turner and Scarbrough

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two members of the public present.

19/166 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.

19/167 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were none from members (all being present).
County Cllr McInroy sent his apologies

19/168 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none

19/169 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none

19/170 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **5th August 2019** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19/171 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that the Council was holding a lot of meetings and quite a number were confidential at this stage. Cllr Mrs Podbury mentioned KCC's Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and said that it could be a useful way of relaying SPC's thoughts on aircraft emissions. The deadline was 23rd September.

19/172 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mrs Angela Moss is SPC's Trustee on the LGCT committee and she said a big thank you on behalf of the Trustees to Cllr Barrington-Johnson for his initiative in trying to resolve the parking issues, especially the weekend problems. The Trustees asked if the school had now reached its maximum capacity and Cllr Mrs Lyle confirmed that this coming year was the last increase in the intake at the school. Mrs Moss asked if the school was considering promoting car sharing and other ways of reducing the reliance on the number of cars. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that SPC had regular meetings with the Headmaster and this was always an issue that was discussed. He said the major issue was road safety and crossing the road and the impact of the 20mph advisory limit was still to be seen, however the matter of a crossing person will be discussed again. Mrs Moss asked if the Council was able to sign the CIO agreement and the Chairman confirmed that it was on the agenda for the meeting.

19/173 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee held since the last Full Council meeting. A meeting is scheduled for 30th September. The two new bank accounts with Hampshire Trust Bank had been opened and money transferred from HSBC.
- b) **Budget virements: RESOLVED** to transfer £2,725.00 to pay for the repair to the fencing in Groombridge from the contingency account. **RESOLVED** to transfer £2,005.63 from the RRIM account to pay for the decoration of the pavilion.
- c) **Interim payments made since the last meeting:** Interim payments since the Full Council meeting: **Unity bank current account:** EDF Energy £324.00 pavilion electricity, £262.87 pavilion water, £0.30p bank charge, and the two transfers to Hampshire Trust Bank for £40,000 each. **Mastercard:** £9.00 Card charge, £12.89* petrol and £38.50* parts. **HSBC** £75,000 to Unity.
- d) **Payments made under delegated authority** are starred above.
- e) **Consideration of Grant towards improvements to the showers at Speldhurst Pavilion:** This item was deferred pending further information

19/174 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Rowe

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount £	Detail
Tate & Tonbridge Fencing	MT1628	3,268.86	Groombridge Fencing Repairs
TWBC	MT1629	331.71	Election costs
MR Lawrence	MT1630	320.00	Mowing and Strimming
Shaw & Sons	MT1631	43.14	Condolence Book
LGCT	MT1632	42.50	Meeting Rooms
Mr L Cooper	MT1633	20.29	Expenses
C May	MT1640	36.95	Expenses
Paul Cheater	MT1642	28.00	Pavilion cleaning
Langton Life	MT1643	250.00	Advertisement Oct/Nov issue
Mr A Cooper	MT1644	2,005.63	Pavilion redecoration
Castle Water	DD	262.87	Pavilion monthly water
BT PLC	DD	650.62	Office Telephone/Broadband
EDF Energy	DD	324.00	Pavilion monthly electricity
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1634	115.97	Pension contributions
Mrs C Barrett	MT1635	406.90	Salary
Mrs K Harman	MT1637	749.67	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1636	640.88	Salary
Mr C May	MT1638	1,566.87	Salary
HMRC	MT1639	2,606.46	Tax & NI
KCC (KCS)	DD	74.15	Photocopier

Total: £13,745.47

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

19/175 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Cllr Mrs Lyle reported that all rooms in the pavilion had been redecorated except for the kitchen, changing and storage rooms. She said that the cleaning and reorganising of the hall had not been completed ahead of a booking at the weekend and consequently was carried out by the café manager

with some help from the cleaners. She and the Chairman had agreed to reduce the monthly rent by the cost of this clean up and hoped that the Council agreed with this decision. This was agreed.

- b) Cllr Mrs Lyle gave an update on the drainage project. She said there had been a delay due to the bad weather early in August. A deep drainage channel running diagonally across the Recreation Ground from the direction of Ashurst Place had been discovered, which appeared to be a stormwater drain. This should improve drainage of the grounds but at an additional cost as the two manhole access points will require heavy caps with a smaller swan neck drain access leading to this existing drain.

Cllr Mrs Woodliffe suggested that the plans should be updated to show the new drains.

It was hoped that the large machinery part of the project would be completed this week.

- c) Cllr Barrington-Johnson gave an update on the parking issue. He said that TWBC had been asked whether planning permission was required for the sturdy matting proposed for the area beyond the five-bar gate. SPC has been informed that it should apply for a Lawful Development Certificate and this will be further investigated. He said that it is estimated that the approximate cost of the matting was £1,000 including fitting. He asked for general approval and this was given. Cllr Mrs Price asked if a plan was available of where the matting is to be laid. This was not available at present.

19/176 LANGTON GREEN CHARITABLE TRUST (LGCT):

- a) **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Vice Chairman sign the Licence to Assign which permits LGCT to assign two leases relating to the Village Hall to the LGVH CIO. The documents were duly signed and witnessed by a local resident.
- b) **RESOLVED** that Mrs Angela Moss continues in her role as SPC's appointed Member and Trustee.

19/177 SEARCHPOINT UK: RESOLVED that SPC would not continue advertising at a cost of £249pa.

19/178 TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN: Cllr Mrs Price said this was to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Planning Committee. Cllr Ellery mentioned an article in the local broadsheet about the plan which was written by the Rev Wren. He asked that the SPC website have a "statement of fact" directing residents to the relevant pages in the plan because people are still not aware of the eighteen houses proposed in Speldhurst. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that the consultation period for the plan should be revealed at a meeting in TWBC on Tuesday 3rd September.

It was agreed to have a live link to the relevant page with further information regarding the consultation period when it is known.

19/179 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman referred to his report on a recent KALC meeting

19/180 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said there was nothing to report and a meeting will be held in October
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said that there had been a meeting of the Planning committee on the 21st August and the draft minutes had been circulated. The next meeting will be held on 10th September when they will review the Local Plan. She said they are becoming more proactive on non-compliance issues and site notices.
- c) **Highways** – A meeting is to be held on 24th September
- d) **Amenities** – Cllr Rowe said that a meeting had been held on 28th August, the draft minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting. He raised two issues: 1) Town & Country had been contacted requesting that we purchase the small tract of land outside the entrance to the Recreation Ground. They had declined saying it was part of a larger area and they want to sell it as one. The Committee considered that this decision should be made by the Full Council and 2) Only two quotes could be found for the replacement for the Bicycle Mill Roundabout, which is about £11,000.
- e) **Air Traffic** - The Chairman said a meeting had been held on 21st August and the draft minutes will be circulated. He said that he is drafting a letter so that SPC can respond to Gatwick about their draft Master Plan. He said the Committee considered the Noise Management Board to be not fit for purpose and had agreed to withdraw support from the HWCAAG should it decide to remain a member of the NMB. He said

CAGNE had established a Parish Councils Forum, but the Committee had agreed not to be a member because of differing priorities.

- f) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that a meeting had been held on the 19th August with the Admin Assistant and Assistant Clerk to update the list of footpath monitors and land ownership. He said that he had been in contact with Jonathan Bibby who said that KCC are currently only maintaining 3 footpaths in the Parish: WT76,77 and 88. KCC are hoping to attract volunteer Countryside Access Wardens. He said KCC are still, however, delivering materials to enable local work to be done.
Cllr Mrs Soyke asked Cllr Milner to look at some problems on land in Ashurst.
- g) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Price is looking to arrange a meeting in September when they will consider the use of weed killer, organise a litter pick and review the Council owned land and how it is managed
- h) **KALC** – refer to the Chairman's report

19/181 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5TH AUGUST 2019: Cllr Rowe asked if the person responsible in KCC for authorising the works and 3-way traffic lights in Speldhurst could make a site visit to see the problems. It was agreed this should be done in a weeks' time after the school had started.

19/182 63 CLERK'S REPORT: He advised the following:

- No air-con unit had been purchased as yet
- He said that the accounts with HTB had been established but no "notice" letters had been sent. He suggested that a better way would be to write asking for a repayment of £20,000 from the notice periods (60 days and 90 days) and if not needed return the money. This was agreed.

19/183 DIARY DATES:

Tuesday 3rd - Parish Chairman's meeting TWBC
Tuesday 10th Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday 17th – Kate starts CiLCA training
Tuesday 24th – Highways Committee meeting
Monday 30th – Finance Meeting

19/184 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Round asked the Chairman about his meeting with the Town Forum regarding the Calverley Park development. The Chairman said that he had given all views submitted, including his own.
- Cllr Mrs Lyle said the fence along A264 from Farnham Lane towards Newlands had been damaged and wondered if any incidents had been reported. She said the recent price increases in school bus passes almost made it cheaper to take children, if more than one, by car. She then said that two youths had been using the twittens on motocross bikes and had been rude to residents. She asked that the Police be informed.
- The Chairman once again reiterated that Councillors, especially Committee Chairmen, look regularly at their tablets to ensure communications are answered.
- Cllr Ellery asked whether Borough Councillors were sending apologies for non-attendance. The Clerk said that invitations were late this month due to a holiday mix up but all Borough and County Cllrs should know that SPC meets on the first Monday of every month.
- Cllr Milner asked about the 20mph advisory flashing lights in Langton Green which had been active throughout the holiday period. The Clerk said that they were unfortunately not programmed for holidays. He did notice the lights at the entrance from Speldhurst were not working that day and would speak with KCC.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman