



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 1ST AUGUST 2016 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Allen, Kerby, Mercieca, Milner, Parker and Turner.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were 3 members of the public present, (see public open session).

16/148 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.

16/149 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Soyke (holiday), Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday), Cllr Mrs Price (holiday), and Cllr Mrs Horne (prior engagement)

16/150 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: There were none.

16/151 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

16/152 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4th July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/153 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: County Councillor John Davies confirmed that he will not be seeking re-election next year. He has been a Councillor for 16 years and said that he has very much enjoyed working with Speldhurst Parish Council. He also reported that he has assisted recently with the Ashurst Broadband campaign and the issue has now been passed to the relevant Cabinet member. A meeting relating to this issue has been scheduled for 15th August and Cllr Davies asked whether any SPC Councillors would be interested in attending.

He has been informed by KCC Highways that the maintenance and replacement of interactive road signs is the responsibility of body who installed it. This will mean that SPC will need to pay for the maintenance of their signs but Cllr Davies said that he was asking for this to be reviewed.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked Cllr Davies for all his hard work and support over the years.

Borough Councillor Mrs Podbury said that there was promising news on the old cinema site in Tunbridge Wells and it was hoped that a planning application would be submitted before Christmas.

16/154 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were three members of the public present – Ken Howes for the Parish Plan agenda item and two members of Langton Green Cricket Club (LGCC) – Mike Tunnel and Martin Russell for the LGCC agenda item. It was decided not to bring these issues forward but to deal with them in accordance with the order on the agenda.

16/155 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- a) There has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting will be on 31st August.
- b) There have been no budget virements, but there will be a virement for the Container payment next month.
- c) There has been one interim payment - £103.30 for trophies for next year's Jubilee awards.
- d) The above payment was made under the Clerk's delegated authority.

Cllr Mrs Podbury asked which budget area the container funds would come from and the Clerk said that the Contingency fund would be used.

16/156 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Podbury

Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card in July

Engrave It All	AO109	96.99	School awards engraving
Engrave It All	AO110	103.30	New trophies*
Total payments		200.29	

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
Victim Support	300220	250.00	Grant
Premiere Digital	MT835	345.00	Printing Summer Newsletter
Premiere Digital	MT836	180.00	Artwork Summer Newsletter
Came & Co	MT837	1,641.57	Annual Insurance
KALC	MT838	72.00	Cllr Conf Training
Mr L Cooper	MT839	38.93	Expenses
Donaldson West	MT840	120.00	Legal fees
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT841	24.00	Room hire
M R Lawrence	MT842	320.00	Mowing
Sygnnet Interactive Ltd	MT843	300.00	Speldhurst Website grant
Viking Direct	MT844	105.74	Stationery and stamps
Langton Green Village Society	MT845	400.00	Grant to fete insurance
K Plunkett	MT846	28.70	Expenses
M Flemington	MT847	90.00	Salary
C May	MT848	1,095.41	Salary
K Plunkett	MT849	604.44	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT850	452.00	Groundsman's Duties
Mr L Cooper	MT851	186.00	Footpath clearance
RBS Software Solutions	MT852	135.60	Software Support
RIP Cleaning Services	MT853	172.80	Canine refuse
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT854	1773.08	Half yearly Maintenance LGRG
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT855	682.04	Half yearly Maintenance Groombridge
LGCSA	MT856	4,950.66	Container purchase and install
ICO	DD	35.00	Data protection
Total payments		14,032.97	

*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

16/157 HIGHWAYS: A Committee meeting was held on 14th July and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Milner referred to the letter from Greg Clark regarding the installation of the 20mph zones and the reduction of the speed limit on Speldhurst Road and said that the news was not encouraging. He said he hoped the 20mph scheme would still materialise.

Cllr Milner also referred to the email from a local resident about Councillors putting notices on cars parked on pavements/ double yellow lines etc. The Clerk said the notices will be used for persistent offenders.

Cllr Allen said that he is arranging a Speedwatch session with the Clerk in August.

The Clerk said he had received an email from TWBC about a request from a speedwatch group in Hawkhurst that is trying to tackle excessive speeding in rural areas. This group is campaigning to get the criteria changed for installing speed cameras. The Clerk will meet with the Highways Chairman to respond to the email.

16/158 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) Cllr Mrs Lyle had included a written update on the rebuild of the pavilion by the Langton Green Community Sports Club (LGCSA). Cllr Mrs Lyle said that a meeting is scheduled for 12th August. She also reported that she had recently met with Guy Lambert and Adrian Moss and she has lots of information and action points for the new management committee and the Full Council.

The decisions requiring expenditure will be made at the Finance Meeting scheduled for later in August; however the decision to approve the cost of a bookings software system of £180 per year can be made by the Clerk under delegated authority as well as the administration of licence applications.

- b) Cllr Mrs Lyle's written note also included an update on the setting up of a Management Committee for the new pavilion. There has been a slight delay in progress due to the holiday season.

The Clerk said that the Containers have been delivered today and the cladding of the pavilion progressing.

Cllrs Mrs Lyle said that there are many administrative tasks which need to be completed before the pavilion can be hired out; fire safety is an issue for example. Cllr Davies said that as a member of the Local Fire Authority, he would be available to intervene should any problems come up.

Discussion followed about the type of tables which should be purchased for the pavilion and it was agreed that lightweight tables are essential.

- c) LGCC representatives, Mike Tunnell and Martin Russell said they still had lots of issues to resolve regarding the new pavilion including the local rule, the Container, the lease agreement and protective measures. On the local rule Mike Tunnell said that the proposal that players are out if they hit the pavilion is not practicable. Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked the Cricket Club to suggest a proposal. Mike Tunnell said that one option would be to reduce the score from a 6 to a 4 if the pavilion is hit. Cllr Kerby asked if the option of moving the cricket square had been considered but the cost is impracticable and will take years. The Cricket Club confirmed that they have a scheme to protect the windows and glass doors.

Cllr Mercieca asked whether the public are safe and suggested signs be put up to warn of the dangers of cricket balls.

Cllr Milner asked how any roller could enter the new storage container which is approximately 18 inches off the ground. Cllr Turner said that a solution for the cricket roller was required by 12th August. A ramp with landscaping was required to solve the problem and LGCSA would be contacted to see what was planned.

The Cricket Club expressed concern over the level of costs that might be charged for the new pavilion and the Clerk said the costs may be higher than previous years but the increase should not be too significant.

The Cricket Club agreed to try and cancel their home fixtures for the remainder of the season.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that a meeting will be scheduled with LGCC to discuss the issues which will be reported back at the next Full Council meeting.

16/159 PARISH PLAN: Ken Howes said he was present to observe discussions on the Parish Plan which has been drafted and distributed to Councillors. He said that the Working Group had contributed to many of the sections and on a few sections there had been some differences of opinion.

Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked Ken for leading and steering this work which had been a mammoth task that was very much appreciated by all. He said that it was not practical to reach consensus today and proposed that a separate working group be set up to consolidate Councillors comments and come up with a draft plan. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he would lead this group and asked Cllr Milner to join him. He asked for one further Councillor to volunteer but no one came forward. The Chairs of each Committee will be included in the section relevant to their Committee. The aim will be to respond within the next 10 days.

Ken Howes emphasised that many of the actions in the Plan will require volunteers rather than be the responsibility of SPC. A program for volunteers is one of the first tasks that will need to be completed.

Cllr Kerby said that he would expect a vision statement at the beginning of the Plan rather than the end. He also noted that there was not a separate section for recreation and sport even though the new pavilion is nearly ready. Ken replied that he can move the vision statement and that recreation and sport had not featured heavily in the survey and the Plan is a reaction to the survey.

16/160 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Price had submitted a request for an Environment Committee to be re-started. Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested waiting to make the decision until the Parish Plan is finalised. Cllr Turner suggested starting with a working group and converting to a Committee as and when necessary. It was **RESOLVED** to defer the decision until the September Full Council meeting.

16/161 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he had attended 2 award ceremonies at the local primary schools in the Parish and he noted that the awards are very much appreciated by the pupils. The Clerk said that any Councillor wishing to attend in the future would be very welcome.

16/162 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Parker said there had been no meeting and there was nothing to report. He noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 25th August.
- b) **Planning** – A meeting was held on 11th July and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 3rd August.
 - It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference
 - The Clerk referred to the TWBC presentations circulated to all Councillors and noted that Jane Lynch is no longer at TWBC. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that Kelvin Hinton's presentation on the 'Call for Sites' was worrying. Greenbelt and AONB is no longer as much protection as it used to be. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a very strong reason for refusal is required for all planning applications. She said that, in her opinion, a new town could be a better solution than infill to meet the house build target as infrastructure is lacking for infill to be a suitable option.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 22nd August. She said that she is starting the process of a boundary change for a few properties in Rusthall and Speldhurst. The process may take up to 2 years.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that there had been no meeting and he would organise one for September, after the Full Council meeting.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that the seasonal issue of overgrown hedges had arisen again this year. He said that the Groundsman is doing some clearing but clearing work by KCC is now very minimal. He said he had read an article in the KALC newsletter suggesting that soft landscaping may be handed back to local Parishes along with a suitable budget.

Cllr Turner asked whether there are enough footpath volunteers and Cllr Milner replied that there are enough volunteers.

Cllr Milner said that he will send the wording for the Alan Passmore plaque to Cllr Mrs Podbury who will ensure the plaque is made in a good quality material.

- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – there was nothing to report
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner asked that this item be removed from future agendas.

16/163 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 4TH JULY 2016: No other matters.

16/164 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1) Letter from resident of Sherbourne House in Langton Green to their neighbour asking for trees to be cut back due to light being blocked.
- 2) 'Connected' magazine produced by Kent and Medway NHS Trust about mental health
- 3) Letter and poster from KCC Waste Management asking for views on the draft strategy on Waste Disposal in Kent up to 2035.
- 4) Letter from St Mary's Church, Speldhurst, thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £800.
- 5) Email from a local resident asking for permission to park in the Langton Green recreation ground car park occasionally as the double yellow lines in Lampington Row have led to a shortage of parking spaces.
- 6) Letter from Came and Company insurance company to notify of a change in trading style of Parish Council Insurance Brokers Limited to Stackhouse Poland Limited. This means there is a new company number and regulatory number but otherwise it is business as usual.
- 7) Gatwick Airmail – airport news for local residents.
- 8) Notice about the closure of St Mary's Lane and Speldhurst village hall car park to enable car parking spaces to be marked out and speed limits to be painted. Closure is from the evening of Monday 29th August for approximately 24 hours.
- 9) HAGS promotional literature on Multi Use Games Areas.
- 10) Email from a resident complaining about hedges that need cutting and parking problems in Speldhurst/ proposed notices on cars parked on pavements.
- 11) Email from Michael Hardy at KCC confirming that the 20mph scheme is being progressed and a programme should be available shortly.

16/165 DIARY DATES:

Monday 1st August – Full Council Meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall
Wednesday 3rd August – Planning Meeting
Monday 22nd August – Amenities Meeting
Thursday 25th August – Governance Meeting, 10.30am
Monday 29th August – line painting on St Mary's Lane and Speldhurst VH car park
Wednesday 31st August – Finance Meeting , 10.30am
Monday 5th September – Full Council Meeting – Ashurst Village Hall
Tuesday 6th September – Planning Meeting

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

16/166 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Podbury noted that SPC had paid a grant towards the Speldhurst Village website and yet no progress was evident. She investigated the reason for the delay and was told that the new website would be ready in September.

Cllr Milner asked all Councillors to send in comments on the Parish Plan.

Cllr Parker said there had been an armed robbery at the Spire Hospital in Fordcombe which had ended in Rusthall.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.07pm.