



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014 at 7.30pm  
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Langridge, Milner, Parker and Turner

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kent County Councillor John Davies, Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer and Peter Brown of West Kent Neighbourhood Watch

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

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

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys welcomed Peter Brown West Kent Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator who addressed the meeting – a copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

He said that Parish Councils engaging in Neighbourhood Watch with one Councillor responsible for security is a positive contribution to complying with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked Councillors to consider this and it will be on the agenda for the May Full Council meeting.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised members of the recent death of former Parish Councillor Alan Passmore who served as a Councillor between 1991 and 2007. She said his lasting legacy is the superb standard of the footpaths in the parish and the band of footpath volunteers. Consideration will be given to an appropriate memorial.

**14/084 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Mrs Horne, Owen, Pendleton and Woodward (all prior engagement) and Borough Councillor David Jukes.

**14/085 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** Cllr Parker declared a non-pecuniary interest in 14/094 - Langton Green Rural Society's request to use the LGRG car park for the Fete on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**14/086 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Cllr Langridge declared that several members of the public have spoken to him about 14/096 – Community Right to Bid

**14/087 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14/088 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** Cllr Davies said that the Langton Green Primary School planning application has been approved and he is going to contact Town and Country Housing about installing posts at the entrance to Winstone Scott Avenue and he may share the costs.

Cllr Stanyer reported that the owners of the cinema site have now signed a demolition agreement. He said that he has received several letters about the number of tall garden fences being erected.

Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that the proposed noise summit is not going ahead in April and another date will be arranged.

**14/089 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were no members of the public present.

**14/090 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys in Cllr Owen’s absence**

- i) There has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting
- ii) There have been no budget virements.
- iii) The investment of £50,000 of Council Reserves in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund is underway. A cheque has been written from HSBC to be paid into Unity Trust Bank and the funds will be transferred to CCLA once the account is open.

**14/091 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Turner**

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in March</u>			
BT PLC	DD	252.21	Telephone & Broadband
Premiere Digital	MT292	114.00	Deer signs
CPRE	135	29.00	Annual membership
KCC	MT294	2,000.00	Barden road improvements
KCC (KCS)	DD	275.45	Photocopier
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
ACRC	SO	35.00	Annual membership
EDF Energy	DD	72.08	Pavilion electricity
MR Lawrence	MT295	220.00	LG & Speldhurst mowing
RIP Cleaning Services	MT296	172.80	Canine refuse collection
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT297	15.00	Meeting rooms
KALC	MT298	1,368.00	Annual membership
Treework	MT299	456.00	Work at Roopers
LGCT	MT300	50.00	Underlease
Mr L Cooper	MT301	250.00	Groundsman’s duties
C May	MT302	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT303	30.60	Expenses
M Flemington	MT304	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT305	23.50	Expenses
Miss K Lawrence	MT306	15.00	Office cleaner
HMRC	MT307	724.70	Tax & NI
BT PLC	DD	18.00	Mobile
East Malling	137	225.00	Chainsaw course
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	58.43	Non-domestic rates

**Total payments** **£5,811.28**

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

**14/092 HIGHWAYS:** Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that a committee meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March and the minutes have been circulated. She advised that there have been a number of accidents recently, one particularly serious one in Stockland Green Road on 28<sup>th</sup> March and another car overturned at the top of Groombridge Hill.

There was a recent incident where the bus driver dropped school children to walk on Etherington and Speldhurst Hills and there have been several reports of traffic speeding on the A264 by Langton Green Church.

- i) It was **RESOLVED** to commission traffic surveys on Groombridge Hill and Ashurst Hill at a cost of approx. £550 each. Groombridge Hill will be done first.

**14/093 COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** The Clerk reported that the notices and boards advertising the casual vacancy will be up until 15<sup>th</sup> April. One person has expressed an interest so far. It was agreed that the interview panel will be Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke and Milner.

**14/094 LANGTON GREEN RURAL SOCIETY:** It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the Rural Society's request to use the LGRG car park for the Fete on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**14/095 FIRST WORLD WAR:** Cllr Langridge reported that the working group held a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March and the notes have been circulated. Consideration will also be given to re-dedication of the War Memorials now that they have been refurbished.

**14/096 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID:** Cllr Langridge had circulated a proposal that the Council nominate land adjoining and owned by Treetops as a community asset. He said that the quarry was a haven of wildlife and lies within the conservation area. He said that there had been an application to develop the land which had been refused and was now going to appeal. Cllr Turner was against the proposal and after much discussion it was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 3 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions to nominate the disused quarry at Stonewall Park Road under the Community Right to Nominate and Bid for Assets of Community Value. The Clerk advised that this site may be ineligible for the same reasons that the previous application for The Green had been turned down (schedule 1 regulations, Localism Act 2011) and that it may set an undesired precedent. It was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 7 in favour and 1 against to commission an ecology survey at a maximum cost of £200.

**14/097 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys requested that as many Councillors as possible are available from 4pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April to set up LGVH. It is proposed to collate the brochures on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April and extra volunteers may be required. A Working Group is to be set up for the organisation of the APA in future years and new members will be required.

**14/098 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Mrs Jeffrey's report of the Parish Chairmen's meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March has been circulated. She suggested that the seminars for home-based businesses and the appeal for a rural cyclist to join the cycle campaign be included in village magazines/local newsletters.

**14/099 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- i) **Governance** – In Cllr Pendleton's absence Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a Committee meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> March and the minutes have been circulated.  
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following new policies:  
Co-option policy  
Template application form for grants  
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following policies and Terms of Reference following annual review which resulted in minor changes:  
Complaints policy  
Winter Weather policy  
Governance and Internal Audit – Terms of Reference
- ii) **Planning** – Cllr Langridge reported that a Committee meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March and that the minutes have been circulated. The next Committee meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- iii) **Amenities** – Cllr Milner reported that a Committee meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March and the minutes have been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Terms of Reference following the annual review. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Committee's recommendation that a new double notice board is purchased for Speldhurst Chapel and the existing single notice board moved to a location in Ashurst.

- iv) **Air Traffic** – It was **RESOLVED** to join the High Weald Parish Councils Aviation Action Group (HWPCAAG) to campaign against aircraft noise, low flying aircraft and night flights on behalf of the electors of the parish and to oppose the proposed second runway at Gatwick by a vote of 7 in favour and 1 against. Cllr Mrs Soyke explained that should SPC disagree with any opinion proposed by the Action Group it will have the option to opt out.
- v) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that contact has now been made with Dr Powell and that KCC will be mending the handrail bridge in Shadwell Wood.
- vi) **Broadband** – There was nothing to report.
- vii) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.
- viii) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that James Bowdidge has been appointed Chairman of the working group and the next meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Langridge are working on a budget which will be submitted to the Council for approval.
- ix) **Environment Working Group** – It was **RESOLVED** to enter Speldhurst village (two categories – Furze field Avenue and Shadwell Wood) in the Kent Men of the Trees Competition at a cost of £20.

**14/100 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2014:** There were none.

**14/101 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

1. CPRE - Countryside Voice magazine
2. CPRE – Field work magazine
3. Letter from Samaritans thanking us for our grant of £250
4. Letter from Hospice in the Weald thanking us for our grant of £1,000
5. Try Angle Awards – nominate a young person for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary awards
6. ACRK Rural News No. 135
7. Oast to Coast magazine
8. Undated letter from 10 Downing Street announcing new tax cut for businesses and charities that starts this financial year – unfortunately local authorities are exempt
9. Email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April from Rural Services Network requesting volunteers to join a Rural Sounding Board of Parish Council representatives (circulated by email). No Councillor expressed an interest in joining the board.
10. Email from TWBC re flood support package for homeowners and businesses

**14/102 DIARY DATES:** all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April** – Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH
2. **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April** – Planning meeting – office
3. **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April** – PPWG – Ellis Room, LGVH
4. **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April** - Finance Meeting - office
5. **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April** – Annual Parish Assembly – LGVH – 7 for 7.30pm
6. **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** – Governance Meeting - office

**14/103 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Turner said that Speldhurst School crossing lights are still flashing permanently. The Assistant Clerk advised that the School are aware and are dealing with it.

Cllr Langridge reported that there had been a successful litter patrol in Langton Green on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Langridge reported that he has been receiving phone calls from residents at unsociable hours.

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