



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

**Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in The Committee Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Owen, Parker, Ringrose and Woodward. Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys and Soyke (ex-officio)

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Messrs Bender, Alldis and Culverhouse from Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) and Mr Russell from Langton Green Cricket Club (LGCC)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were no absences
2. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests:** Cllr Owen declared a personal interest – he has a stepson who attends the Sports Club
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **The Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011** were signed as a correct record.
5. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** Cllr Milner had investigated the fence at the playground and did not consider it in a condition that warranted a repair at this stage.
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. Cllr Milner introduced Councillors to the public and vice versa. It was decided to merge this session with the next item.
7. **Sports Pavilion – Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**  
Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that the meeting had been called at short notice because an opportunity had arisen to apply for funding from Sport England – Inspired Facilities and the first applications had to be in by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011. She explained that up to £50,000 could be applied for, or larger grants could be applied for up to £100,000 but required match funding. Other grants could be applied for, from KCC for example at the same time. It was essential to demonstrate a need for the facilities, how the community was involved and that it could attract new users, with an explanation of how running costs would be met for years to come. There had been an initial meeting with an

architect that afternoon who would prepare an initial costing of drawings and suggest what improvements were feasible.

The LGSC said that they were looking for far greater improvements than were being offered and that they could obtain funding from other sources on a greater scale on the condition (imposed by those potential sources) that they had tenure, which could be in the form of a lease, for a certain number of years (they did not at that stage have details as to the term required). They would be prepared to apply for the grants, have the plans drawn up, control the build and look after the building.

Cllrs said that they were prepared to take this proposal to the next meeting of Full Council for a vote by Cllrs and instructed **the Clerk to put it on the Agenda**. There would need to be evidence of the nature and duration of the tenure required and the legal status of the club as the potential tenant of the Council. LGSC were asked to find out how tenure is documented at other clubs.

Mr Russell said that he would report to the LGCC at their next meeting of the proposal and inform the Parish Council and LGSC of any considerations.

In the light of LGSC's intent to pursue the "bigger" project, the request already made by the Parish Council to architects to provide an estimate for design work, based on the original expectation, would now be withdrawn.

#### **8. Terms of Reference**

A draft version had been circulated and an amendment was proposed. The amended version would be put before Full Council for approval.

#### **9. Furzefield Avenue**

It was noted that there had been some minor damage to the stones by cars. It was decided to continue to monitor and review the situation.

#### **10. Trees in the Parish**

- i. It was **AGREED** to employ Treework to carry out a survey of the trees on the LGRG for a future maintenance schedule and that any work arising from the survey would be put to tender.
- ii. The Clerk said that he had not yet actioned a survey of the large beech tree on The Green. **Clerk to action.**

#### **11. Playground Inspection Report** – The annual report had been received from Maria Cook. It was noted that there were a number of issues for concern:

- Gyrospiral – top fixing loose
- Aerial runway – minor damage
- Ball Games Area - bolts missing
- Pathway behind the ball stop netting is wearing away
- Some minor wear on swings
- Some grass would require reinstatement or replacement with rubber matting

**Clerk to investigate and report**

#### **12. New islands outside the old Watson Hall**

A kerbstone has been reported damaged and the **Clerk was requested to find out the cost of replacing it**. It was **AGREED** to employ Tate Fencing to install eight posts on the islands as per their quote to deter motorists from driving over the islands. **Clerk to action.**

#### **13. Signs at LGRG**

- i. It was **AGREED**, pending Finance Committee approval, that a sign should be situated at the entrance to the car park warning motorists that small children used

the area. Cllr Langridge had previously circulated a proposed design and with some amendments it was approved at A4 size.

- ii. It was **AGREED** that an ownership sign should be made for the entrance to the LGRG and the wording and design would be approved at the next meeting.

Cllr Ringrose said that the Nursery Sports Day had been marred by dog mess which had to be cleared up before the races could begin. He suggested that signs were needed. **Clerk to ask TWBC for sample signs.**

#### **14. Grass cutting in the Parish**

- i. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys had been contacted by a resident of Roopers who had enquired about maintenance of verges that had not been cut this year. KHS have made substantial cutbacks to this maintenance and it was decided to place an article in the Parish magazines advising residents of the problem. The Clerk advised that where there is a safety issue e.g. Clayton's Lane and the Green at Langton then the areas should be cut three times a year. **Clerk to obtain a list of maintenance areas from KHS.**
- ii. Lengthsman – Bidborough employ a Lengthsman to do various maintenance jobs. It was agreed that it was probably not practical in Speldhurst Parish, which has four villages, but Cllrs were asked to bear it in mind should anyone be available for consideration.

#### **15. Letter to residents re the Twittens**

The overgrown Twittens is related to 14i and a letter has been drafted by Cllr Langridge. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys suggested a slight amendment to the wording and the Clerk was requested to amend and circulate to committee members.

#### **16. War Memorial**

Burslem the stonemasons had sent a standard letter advising that, in their opinion the War Memorial required a clean. Cllrs considered this and decided one was not needed this year.

#### **17. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacon**

Cllrs **AGREED** not to participate

#### **18. Camping on LGRG**

The Clerk advised that he had not received the information he had requested regarding basic requirements for camping in open areas and had therefore not replied. Cllrs discussed the matter generally and were minded to refuse and refer the resident to other local campsites.

#### **19. Items for Information**

Cllr Ringrose asked about recycling of the bins on the LGRG. He advised that collection appeared erratic and often articles were left (especially broken bottles) on the floor. **The Clerk was asked to make enquiries and report.**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman