



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2015 at 7.30pm  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson, Mrs Hull, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Allen, Parker, and Woodward

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kent County Councillor John Davies and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councillor David Jukes

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk

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

**15/165 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.

**15/166 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Mrs Horne, Milner, Turner and Mrs M Flemington, Assistant Clerk (all prior engagement)

**15/167 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**15/168 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**15/169 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment – 15/144 Accounts for Payment – the payee name for £290.00 be changed from Ashurst McDermott Hall Sports to Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association (ABSA). It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary full Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**15/170 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:** KCC Cllr Davies reported that KCC was facing a major challenge with the current Immigration levels and said that KCC was struggling because it has a legal obligation to care for the children and even foster them. Some are being ferried to neighbouring Counties that are willing to take them. He also cited Operation Stack as a draw on resources, especially the Police. The Government was reimbursing the County but only on evidence of expenditure which had a certain time lag.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked if the workload was affecting KCC Officers and if the Parish Council should delay any requests for works. Cllr Davies said he thought that all work should proceed as normal.

Cllr Jukes asked if the Parish Council has received the £1,000 for maintenance at the pond of The Boundary. The Clerk confirmed that no payment has been received. Cllr Jukes will investigate this.

**15/171 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Mr and Mrs Fielding have lived in Broom Lane, Langton Green for about five months and were concerned about the road signage at the railway bridge and that there were no speed signs in the Lane. They cited the scout camp at Adam's Well and hikers frequently using the Lane. The Clerk will contact KCC Highways for clarification of the speed limit, request clearer signage and will advise Mr & Mrs Fielding of the results. Cllr Davies said he would explore the legality of the signs (or absence thereof) and might be able to find a little money if correction of the signage isn't too expensive. Cllr Jukes said he would speak to a Wealden/E Sussex councillor about the matter.

**15/172 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Soyke**

- a) There has not been a Committee meeting since the last Full Council.
- b) There have been no budget virements since that meeting.
- c) There have been three interim payments since that meeting; £120.00 for four defibrillator signs, £56.00 for non-domestic rates and £33.00 for a direct debit mobile bill.
- d) One payment had been authorised under delegated authority; £16.00 for office expenses.
- e) The Clerk explained that the three year arrangement with Came & Co expires in 2016. As an incentive to commit to a new three year deal from 2015 the company was offering a discount of 5% on this year's premium, saving £106.11 which would be reimbursed as the premium has already been paid. It was **RESOLVED** to extend the long term insurance agreement with Came & Co for a further three years from 2015.
- f) The Clerk reported on the new Pension regulations and said that this will be discussed by the Governance and Finance Committees.
- g) After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to grant an additional £4,500 to Speldhurst School towards the new classroom. The Clerk advised that this money would come from the contingency account and be paid via s137.

**15/173 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Hull**

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in July</u>			
First Rescue	MT594	144.00	Defibrillator signs
TWBC	DD	56.00	Non-domestic rates
BT PLC	DD	33.00	Mobile

Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card

Sainsbury's	AO68	16.00	*Office expenses
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To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Speldhurst CoE Primary School	174	2,500.00	Grant
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT595	250.00	Office electricity
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT596	48.00	Meeting room hire
Miss K Lawrence	MT597	15.00	Cleaner
Mr L Cooper	MT598	28.56	Insurance
Mr L Cooper	MT599	21.97	*Maintenance supplies
Mr L Cooper	MT600	4.99	*Maintenance supplies
C May	MT601	1,467.20	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT602	404.00	Groundsman's duties
C May	MT603	29.25	Expenses
M Flemington	MT604	700.48	Salary

M Flemington	MT605	26.55	Expenses
HMRC	MT606	767.74	Tax & NI
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT607	26.50	Meeting room hire PPWG
Mr L Cooper	MT608	96.00	Hedge cutting
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT609	1,381.78	LGRG 6 month ground maintenance
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT610	668.68	Groombridge ground maintenance
Unity Trust Alto	Top up	1,000.00	Fire-proof cabinet
ICO	DD	35.00	Data Protection registration
M R Lawrence	MT611	320.00	Mowing
SR Electrical	MT612	415.00	Groombridge defibrillator installation
RIP Cleaning Services	MT613	216.00	Canine refuse collection
Greenbarnes Ltd	MT614	1,373.39	LG Notice board
Archer Signs & Panels Ltd	MT615	65.10	Allotment footpath sign
Langton Life	MT616	250.00	Media column
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	56.00	Non-domestic rates

**Total payments** **£12,167.19**

\*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

**15/174 HIGHWAYS:** There had been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council. The next meeting is to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

The Clerk reported further on the installation of 20mph speed restrictions in Langton Green and Speldhurst. He has been advised of approximate costing by KCC but a more detailed survey was needed to firm up the various details. He was advised that for the project to get priority it needed KCC member endorsement. Cllr Davies said that for the project to be given KCC member priority it needed to be initiated and funded by him but unfortunately he did not have funds available to assist. Cllr Jukes said that he would try and see if Borough Cllr endorsement could help. He would also chase up Cllr Hills (who has taken over from Cllr Caroline Derrick) for answers to questions emailed back in early June.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she and Cllrs Mrs Podbury and Hull had attended a meeting to promote cycling in the Borough which also called for 20mph in built up areas of the Town. Cllr Mrs Hull said that she and Cllr Mrs Podbury had conducted a feasibility study for cycling on the path alongside the A264 Langton Road to the Town some years ago and that the idea should be considered in future planning.

Cllr Mrs Hull said she had been lobbied by a resident who thought Dornden Drive required street lighting and traffic calming.

**15/175 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES:** The Clerk reported that four people had expressed an interest in joining the Council. Interviews would take place in two parts because of holidays and the working group would make their recommendations at the September Full Council meeting.

**15/176 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

- a) There was nothing further to report on the pavilion.
- b) The Clerk reported that work started on the school footpath on 27<sup>th</sup> July and should be finished by mid-August.

**15/177 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC:** The Clerk reported that the transfers have been completed with the exception of the strip of land on the junction of Longmeads and The Boundary and the land at Ashurst.

**15/178 LOVE WHERE WE LIVE AWARDS:** The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's nominations have been submitted online.

**15/179 NEWSLETTER:** The clerk reported that the Newsletter was ready for distribution by Councillors and volunteers.

**15/180 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman reported on the two presentations made by himself and Cllr Milner at the Langton Green and Speldhurst Primary schools respectively. Photos would be put on the website and in the Village magazines

**15/181 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – no meeting had been held since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- b) **Planning** – a meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Mrs Hull noted that work had started on a new exit from Mead House, Langton Road and could this be investigated at the Planning Meeting. She also said that a tree was over hanging at an angle at the school near the wild life area and could the Tree Officer be informed. Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to correspondence regarding the sale of Barden Dairy from disillusioned residents.
  - i. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference.
- c) **Amenities** – no meeting had been held since the last Full Council. The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> September.
  - i. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Soyke joins the Amenities Committee.
- d) **Air Traffic** – no meeting had been held since the last Full Council. There was a discussion on the HWCAAG leaflet and how this would be distributed or circulated and it was decided not to hold back the distribution of the newsletter. The number of leaflets required would be submitted to HWCAAG. Cllr Mrs Hull asked if SPC would be replying to the Kent Environment Strategy (<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/KESconsultation/consultationHome>) which is open for consultation until 25<sup>th</sup> September because it has been highlighted that no reference is made to aircraft noise or pollution. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that it would be on the agenda for the September Full Council and he hoped that a committee meeting may be possible before.
- e) **Footpaths** – the Clerk reported that the Groundsman has cut back the hedge along Langton Road, Speldhurst.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – there was nothing to report.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – a working group meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July and the notes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> August. The Clerk reported on behalf of the Chairman, Ken Howes, asking if the Council could provide a response to points raised in his summary of open day comments. This was so that the working group could report back that they had been referred to the council who were looking in to them. The Chairman and the Clerk would review the comments and make a recommendation for a response or delegate them to a committee for further investigation.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – no meeting had been held since the last Full Council. The next meeting will be in the autumn. Cllr Mrs Hull has been in contact with Kent Men of Trees regarding the Langton Green entry.

**15/182 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015:** There were none.

**15/183 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

1. RBS Rialtas Summer Newsletter 2015
2. Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> July from Hospice in the Weald enclosing Hospice News Summer 2015 and details of their Hospice Therapy dogs scheme
3. Email dated 13<sup>th</sup> July from Came and Company advising that they have joined the Stackhouse Poland Group
4. Letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> July from GACC regarding a protest rally on 12<sup>th</sup> September
5. Email dated 15<sup>th</sup> July from ACRK with details of a roadshow about Big lottery Fund support for Village SOS programmes

6. Email dated 17<sup>th</sup> July from KALC advising that they have reached their funding target for an economic benefits study on east facing slips at an appropriate location in the vicinity of Junction 5 of the M25
7. CPRE TW Invitation to AGM Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October starting at 2.30pm at HMP Blantyre House

**15/184 DIARY DATES:**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Full Council meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall, Committee Room**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Annual Inspection of playground

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Planning meeting – Office

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Parish Plan Working Group meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH – **7pm**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August – Police Contact Point – St Mary’s Lane, Speldhurst – **12 - 1pm**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August – Police Contact Point – St Mary’s Lane, Speldhurst – **12 – 1pm**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August – KALC Area Committee meeting – TWBC – **7pm**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August – summer bank holiday

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Parish Chairmen’s meeting - TWBC – **7pm**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Village Hall**

**15/185 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:** The Clerk said that he would be putting CCTV on the agenda for the September meeting.

Cllr Mrs Podbury said there had been another burglary in Stockland Green Road.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Chairman

