



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 7th JULY 2014 at 7.30pm
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Milner, Owen (arrived 8.10pm) and Pendleton

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

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

14/150 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Parker, Turner and Woodward (all prior engagement).

14/151 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: There were none.

14/152 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

14/153 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **2nd June 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The notes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on **28th April 2014** were approved and it was **RESOLVED** that they be signed at the Full Council meeting on 4th August.

14/154 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor Julia Soyke reported that the TWBC Planning Committee on 9th July has been cancelled because of the delays in validating planning applications and the next two Committee meetings will be 30th July and 6th August.

14/155 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were two members of the public present.

Patsy Henley inquired further about parking outside Speldhurst Post Office and shop and said that she had met Greg Clark MP about this matter. The Clerk advised that TWBC will be considering it under their part 2 rural reviews of roads and parking in due course.

Marianne Buckley Langton Green Village Hall Trustee said she had attended the South East Water road closure Presentation and enquired about signage during the works. The Clerk advised that following a meeting with South East Water there will be as many advanced warning signs on the roads as is realistically possible. She did suggest that large laminated signs along the A264 be used and the Clerk will look in to it.

14/156 COMMITTEES: After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Cllr Milner in their ex-officio capacity will attend Planning Committee meetings where necessary and that a new Councillor will not be appointed to the Highways Committee at present.

14/157 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- a) A Committee meeting was held on 23rd June and the minutes have been circulated.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget virement of £3,100 from Amenities to Highways for the cost of the service road resurfacing and new kerbing at The Green.
- c) The Clerk reported on eight interim payments made since the last Council meeting and it was **RESOLVED** to approve these.
- d) After considerable discussion and voting it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Standing Orders – Financial Regulations subject to increasing the delegated powers of expenditure under item 3.5 to ‘a maximum of £3,000 per item of expenditure’
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference subject to item 12 regarding email decisions being removed and item 13 being amended to ‘a maximum of £3,000 per item of expenditure’ as in the Standing Orders – Financial Regulations.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the Finance and Highways Committees that £5,035 is spent on completing works – half the cost of making good the service road and the cost of new kerbing – at The Green.
- g) The Clerk reported that St Martin’s Church have not been able to provide all the details in connection with their grant application for tree work in the churchyard. This will be considered when all the information is available.

14/158 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Barrington-Johnson

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in May</u>			
Amazon	AO34	61.81	Weed killer
Rymans	AO37	71.29	Stationery
Sainsbury’s	AO36	14.00	Petrol
Amazon	AO35	48.98	Office telephones
Unity Trust	AO38	0.50	Top up fee
Homebase	AO39	171.94	Pressure sprayer
Quick Fix UK Ltd	AO40	13.90	Badges
Engrave It All	AO41	134.48	School Awards/Engraving
Total payments		£516.90	

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

EDF Energy	DD	194.48	Electricity LG pavilion
BT PLC	DD	46.32	Mobile
Ashurst Place Rest Home	147	350.00	Field rental
Paul Thornby	148	50.00	Strimming Pocket Park
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT345	12.00	Meeting room hire
Langton Life	MT346	250.00	SPC page
RIP Cleaning Services	MT347	216.00	Canine refuse
Mr L Cooper	MT348	340.00	Groundsman
Miss K Lawrence	MT349	15.00	Cleaner
C May	MT350	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT351	61.20	Expenses
M Flemington	MT352	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT353	35.20	Expenses

HMRC	MT354	725.60	Tax & NI
M R Lawrence	MT355	310.00	Mowing & strimming
Greenbarnes Ltd	MT356	1,567.05	Notice Board
RIP Cleaning Services	MT357	172.80	Canine refuse
KCC (KCS)	DD	451.56	Photocopier
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	55.00	Non-domestic rates

Total payments **£6,929.38**

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

14/159 HIGHWAYS: Cllr Langridge had submitted a report and advised that the traffic surveys on Ashurst and Groombridge Hills are in place. He reported on speedwatch sessions that have been carried out in Langton Green and Ashurst and that an alternative to further barriers in Barden Road is under consideration.

14/160 AIR TRAFFIC: Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that a Committee meeting was held on 16th June and the minutes have been circulated. She advised that 47 people were present at the noise summit at TWBC chaired by Matthew Balfour in June.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to confirm to Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign that SPC oppose the second runway at Gatwick as almost without exception residents who have been in contact with the Parish Council are complaining about the increase in traffic and noise and do not want a second runway.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group policy with the Committee being delegated to try and obtain amendments to the wording. It was **RESOLVED** to take full membership of HWCAAG but conditional on appropriate budgets and financial expenditure being agreed. **The Clerk to confirm to HWCAAG.**
- d) It was **RESOLVED** that the letter drafted by the Committee be sent to Greg Clark MP signed by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys Chairman. Cllr Mrs Soyke will confirm all parties the letter should be copied to.

14/161 SE WATER WORKS – STARTING 24TH JULY FOR 41 DAYS: The Clerk reported that South East Water have confirmed that there will be access to LGVH and LGRG from the north during the road closure and that he has asked them to install extra signage ahead of the approaches to Speldhurst and Langton Green advising of the road closure and diversions. He advised that details will be on SPC website, in the SPC Newsletter and in the village magazines. Nu-Venture has advised that the 282 bus service will still run from Speldhurst to Tunbridge Wells but on a revised timetable and not via Langton Green.

14/162 KCC WORKS ON SCHOOL AND LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND CAR PARKS AND FOOTPATHS: The Clerk reported that phase 2 which is the work within LGRG car parks will not start until September at the earliest and therefore will not clash with the South East Water road closure of Speldhurst Road outside the entrance to LGRG and Village Hall.

14/163 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The clerk reported that TWBC have advised that Rusthall Parish Council have confirmed that they do not wish the parcel of land at the junction of The Boundary and Longmeads to be transferred to them. After discussion and a vote it was **RESOLVED** to advise TWBC that Speldhurst Parish Council would like this land transferred to them on the same terms as the other land in The Boundary. The Clerk reported that consideration of two plots of land in Ashurst being transferred from TWBC to SPC will be on the agenda for consideration at the August Full Council meeting. Cllr Mrs Hull said that, in her opinion, residents should not expect Council owned land to be maintained to the same standards as some lawns and asked about the insurance implication of residents tidying up any land owned by the Council. This would be investigated further by the Amenities Committee.

14/164 TWBC “LOVE WHERE WE LIVE AWARDS”: After considerable discussion it was agreed not to make any nominations this year.

14/165 TWBC MAYOR: It was agreed to advise the Mayor’s Office of the two school presentations in July and ask if he is able to attend.

14/166 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that Cllr Milner attended the Parish Chairmen’s meeting on 17th June on her behalf and referred to his detailed report. She advised that the awards presentations at Langton Green and Speldhurst Schools will be made on 18th and 23rd July respectively.

14/167 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) **Governance** – There was nothing to report.
- ii) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Horne reported a Committee meeting was held on 9th June and the minutes have been circulated. She reported that the Salomons Father Christmas World application is still under consideration by TWBC and that there are still a lot of delays and problems with the change to paperless planning and e-consultation. The next Committee meeting is on 14th July.
- iii) **Amenities** – There was nothing to report.
- iv) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that several stiles have been repaired recently and that KCC have replaced the bridge in Shadwell Wood. He said Speldhurst Scouts did a good job of clearing work in Shadwell Wood and that Pocket Park is looking tidier. He enquired about the possibility of the Groundsman doing some further footpath work in Speldhurst and he will advise the Clerk of the details.
- v) **Broadband** – It was noted that BT are starting to install the roadside cabinets in Langton Green
- vi) **KALC** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported on the meeting held on 25th June. The decision on whether to continue with KALC will need to be made at the August Full Council meeting. She reported that Paddock Wood have School Heads and Youth Leaders on their Neighbourhood/Parish Plan group.
- vii) **Parish Plan Working Group** – it was reported that there has not been a meeting of the full Working Group but meetings of small groups have been held to address specific matters. The Chairman asked for an update for the August meeting.
- viii) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull advised that the next meeting will be held in the autumn.
- ix) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that they had a display at Langton Green Fete, there will be a service at 10pm at All Saints’ Church (this is a combined Langton Green and Speldhurst Church service) on Monday 4th August and they are considering an open air screening of the film War Horse in 2015. It was agreed that the Groundsman will clear round the First World War graves in St Mary’s Churchyard and that the Church will be advised that this is being done prior to 4th August 2014 and not as a regular event.
- x) **Security** – There was nothing to report.

14/168 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2ND MAY 2014:

Cllr Langridge said that the Newsletter will be available for distribution in mid-July.

The Clerk confirmed that he is dealing with the two finger posts.

14/169 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1. ACRK Oast to Coast magazine Summer 2014
- 2. ACRK schedule of achievements in 2013-2014 and aspirations for 2014-2015
- 3. KALC Parish News May/June 2014
- 4. Policing in Kent Newsletter June 2014
- 5. RBS Newsletter Summer 2014
- 6. Letter dated June 2014 from The Woodland Trust regarding their ‘Centenary Woods we will stand for future generations’ First World War commemorative project
- 7. Email dated 3rd June from KALC regarding the Department for Energy and Climate Change consultation document on underground drilling access

8. Email dated 20th June from KALC regarding Eric Pickles' advice to Parish Councils to steer clear of journalists
9. Letter dated 25th June from the Mayor's Secretary with information on the First World War Drumhead Ceremony to be held on Sunday 3rd August in Calverley Grounds at 3pm
10. Email dated 24th June from Sheila Passmore expressing concern at the rough cut of Pocket Park, followed by a further email dated 3rd July from her following the further cut by Martyn Lawrence
11. Email dated 2nd July from Dawn Hollond of Bauhinia Cottage, Stonewall Park Road expressing concern at where the path clearance debris has been left near her house. This is work being carried out by the Groundsman but for Langton Green Village Society and this is where they told him to leave it
12. Email dated 3rd July from TWBC Property and Development Manager regarding the transfer of two (non-performing assets) sites in Ashurst. This will be on the August agenda
13. Email dated 2nd July from Police Inspector Annie Clayton advising that our new PCSO is Joe Pearson and that he will be supported initially by PCSO Lee Whitworth
14. Letter dated 3rd July from the Heating Oil Club regarding community bulk purchasing of heating oil
15. A number of telephone calls have been received from Speldhurst residents regarding the bus service during the closure of Speldhurst Road, Langton Green. We have made enquiries of the bus company and they have advised that the 282 service will run during the road closure but on an alternative route and revised timetable and not via Langton Green. The revised timetable will be posted on the bus stops
16. Email dated 4th July from Dr Peter Cave regarding the safety of children during visits to theme parks

14/170 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Tuesday 8th July** – Langton Green Primary School Sports Day
2. **Sunday 13th July** – Hospice in the Weald Open Garden Day and teas – Broomlands, Broom Lane, Langton Green – **2.30 – 4pm**
3. **Monday 14th July** – Planning meeting – Office
4. **Friday 18th July** – Presentation of SPC awards, Langton Green Primary School – **10.25am**
5. **Tuesday 22nd July** – Annual inspection of LGRG playground by Maria Cook, Craigdene
6. **Wednesday 23rd July** – Presentation of SPC awards to Speldhurst School, St Mary's Church – **2.15pm**
7. **Thursday 24th July** – Road closure starts for South East Water works, Speldhurst Road, Langton Green outside LGVH (access to LGVH from north only)
8. **Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th July and Wednesday 30th July** – Junior football coaching on LGRG
9. **Monday 4th August - Full Council meeting** – Speldhurst Village Hall

The Clerk reminded all Councillors to advise him of their holiday dates well in advance.

14/171 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Milner said he had attended a school forum at Langton Green Primary School and that their Governors Stakeholder Committee may be a useful point of contact during the school expansion works.

Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that the chevron highway sign at Stone Cross is damaged and that highway verge cutting has damaged and knocked down the Ashurst Village Hall sign (approaching Ashurst from Stone Cross).

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys thanked Cllr Milner for attending the Parish Chairmen's meeting on her behalf and preparing such comprehensive notes.

Cllr Langridge reported that the Langton Green Village Fete was very successful.

Cllr Langridge said that Langton Green Guides have told him that they are finding it difficult to pay the Langton Green Village Hall hire rates. Marianne Buckley said that she will investigate.

The clerk asked that all Councillors look at the website regularly and advise him of any updates required.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.17pm

Chairman