

## **Speldhurst Parish Council**

### **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008 at 7.45pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL, LANGTON GREEN**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Waters, Brown, Colley, Ellis, Langridge, Parker, Stevens and Wheeler

County Councillor John Davies. Five members of the public – Agenda Item 16 – Planning Application for Bradleys Mill and Agenda Item 4 Highways

#### **2099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr. Ellis – Personal Interest (Trustee - Langton Green Charitable Trust) Agenda Item 7 Transfer of Land either side of the former Watson Hall

**2100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllrs. Mrs Hull - holiday

**2101 MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008, having previously been distributed to Members, were approved and signed with the following addition to item 2095 (Finance) being requested by Cllr. Mrs Hull; `Cllr. Mrs Hull abstained from this decision as she wanted more time on the Finance Committee to see how it worked`. This addition was unanimously agreed.

**2102 AGENDA ITEMS** - It was unanimously agreed to bring Agenda Item 16 forward – see 2108

#### **2088 Highways – Speldhurst – Meeting with Keith Ferrin and Alan Ash**

Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Podbury and the Clerk had met with County Councillor Keith Ferrin and Alan Ash (Senior KHS Engineer). A detailed report had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys advised that although the villages within Speldhurst Parish Council are very low priority, Kent Highways are prepared to consider cutting off Barden Road so that it is not a `through road` **providing** this is what the village wants. Even if the village agree to this proposal, Kent Highways will consult with neighbouring parishes, emergency services and residents themselves. It was unanimously agreed that this idea should be put to the residents.

A petition for `safer roads in Speldhurst Village` with 96 signatures, was handed to the Parish Council.

**Speldhurst Bus Service** – a letter had been received from the bus driver expressing continued difficulties manoeuvring the bus around parked cars on the corners of Southfields and Penshurst Road.

**Parking Restrictions : Barden Road / Speldhurst Hill** - The Clerk advised that KHS had confirmed that these would be down within the next week.

**Consideration for further Restricted Parking – Speldhurst** – Following a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed to further parking restrictions being requested

on the corners of the Southfields / Northfields / Penshurst Road junctions and on the right hand side when entering Furzefield Avenue. The Clerk was asked to inform Kent Highways.

**1887-4 Parish Council Funded Highways Projects** – nothing further to report.

**1887-4 Speldhurst Hill – safer crossing** – John Davies asked that the clerk write to him to enquire where the agreed funding for this had gone.

**1887-4 Barden Road – footpaths** – It was unanimously agreed that financing for resurfacing should be considered at the Finance Committee`s Budget Meeting.

**1887-4 Crossing from the Recreation Ground to The Twitten** – the Jacobs report had been circulated to all Councillors. As this was part of the Junior School`s Travel Plan funding should be available. It was agreed to consult with local residents in the private road.

**2094-7 SAT NAVS** - Cllr. Mrs Soyke asked that Bird in Hand Street / Groombridge Lane be included.

**2094-8 Parish & Town Seminar 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Cllr. Brown reported on the Seminar, his report having previously been circulated to Members.

**2103 Parish Briefing** – The Clerk had contacted the Monitoring Officer and the reply was read to the meeting. As Cllr. Brown felt that his concerns had not been sufficiently addressed he was asked to respond via the Clerk.

**2104 Chairman`s Report** – Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys reported on the Chairman`s` meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**2043 Transfer of Land either side of the former Watson Hall** – the recent solicitor`s letter was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk be given authority to sign the documentation.

**2972 Your Parish Council** – The Clerk would discuss further with Cllr. Mrs Waters and report back to the Parish Council.

**2060 Appointment of Parish Council Representative on Langton Green Charitable Trust** – as no volunteer had come forward Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk if they were aware of a suitable candidate.

**2080 Mayor to Visit all Parish Council** – it was unanimously agreed that the Mayor be invited to a Parish Council Surgery and the Clerk would make arrangements.

**2092 Mobility Access Around the Villages** – Cllrs. Mrs Hull and Podbury had carried out a survey of Speldhurst which the Clerk would submit to Kent Highways.

**2094-11 Kent Tree Scheme** – There were approximately 17 dead trees in Dornden Drive. It was agreed that the trees offered via this scheme would be too small and the Clerk was asked to obtain a price for removing the trees. Cllr. Brown would then make contact with Dornden Drive residents via his Neighbourhood Watch link.

## **1960 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES**

15<sup>th</sup> October - attended by Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Brown, Langridge, Parker the Clerk, Borough Councillor David Jukes and PCSO Ray Nuttall.

Ron Fisher, Speldhurst resident, had received a reply to his letter to Greg Clark MP regarding continued concerns with Speldhurst traffic. It appeared that there was nothing Kent Highways could do.

Dates for 2009 would be discussed at the November meeting. Councillors found this to be an important meeting and would wish it to continue.

### **2105 Matters for updating from the Minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**2074 Parish Council Questionnaire** - Discuss January 2009 meeting.

**2075 Parish Council Notice Board – Langton Green** - Clerk would obtain prices

**2028-3 TWBC – Affordable Housing Needs Survey – Approval of Letter** - Approved letter would be sent to residents at the beginning of November for reply by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**2018-3 Speed Hump and Give Way Lining** – The Clerk had place an order with Sturgeons.

**2091 Parish Council – Style of Name Change** - The Clerk would obtain further information.

**1825-3 Ashurst Village Play Area / Registering of Common Ground** – Cllr. Mrs Soyke reported that following advice from Maria Cook, Play Area Project Manager, she would arrange a Village Survey. The Clerk advised that the Project Manager was extremely concerned at the chosen tucked away location and also wondered how many village children would benefit from a play area.

As the meeting had reached its 2 hour duration, Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys asked for approval of the Council to continue the meeting.

**1965 Conservation Area** – A reply had been received from Brian Hayward as follows `Your letter points to my suggestion that the Parish Council would contribute to the costs of repair to the War Memorial which amount to £3,152 plus VAT. This suggestion was put forward as the repair costs were higher than anticipated and because the main aim of the project is on enhancement. Please confirm whether the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards these costs ?`

Councillors expressed concerns at this request and it was agreed to arrange a meeting.

**2047-2 Barbed wire fencing at the top of Groombridge Hill.** Cllr. Stevens had investigated and reported no undue barbed wire.

**2062-9 Overhanging trees from The Twitten – Roopers** – Following a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Officer, Cllr. Stevens confirmed that the overhanging trees were the responsibility of the owners either side of the Twitten.

**2094-1** Cllr. Mrs Pobury`s report had previously been distributed to Councillors.

**2094-4 TWBC Draft Vision 20/26.** Letter submitted. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys would attend the forthcoming meeting.

**2098-1** – Risk Assessment arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**2098-2** – The Clerk would purchase Councillor name badges.

### **2106 DIARY DATES**

25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> October – Marchiennes 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Celebration at Langton Green Recreation Ground 11am on 26<sup>th</sup> October – Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys asked that Councillors try and attend.

Surgery - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2pm – 3.30pm - Speldhurst Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting - 17<sup>th</sup> November 7.45pm Speldhurst Village Hall

### **2107 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

1. EDF Energy – Notice of Termination of Contract – KCC are arranging.
2. TWBC – Overview and Scrutiny Officer / Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer. Review of Road Safety and Transportation in TW – reply by end of October. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk will reply.
3. Letter from Langton Green resident requesting factual information. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk would prepare a draft letter of reply and circulate to all Councillors.

### **2108 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning.** Cllr. Jeffreys had received a letter from a Speldhurst resident advising that the Planning Application for Bradleys Mill states that `informal discussions had taken place with Parish Councillors and the applicant`. Councillors present confirmed that no such discussions had taken place.

Residents present felt disappointment in the Parish Council`s Planning Committee`s recommendation to `Remain Neutral` but were pleased that the Committee were requesting that it be `called in` for decision by Committee.

Councillors agreed to the recommendation of the Planning Committee which would be put forward to TWBC. Cllr. Parker abstained from this vote. Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys took no part in the vote.

Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis reported on the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October, the Minutes having previously been distributed to Councillors.

The Committee expressed surprise by the decision of TWBC`s Planners to refuse the application for Caynham Camp, Southfields, Spedhurst.

Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis asked for the approval of the Parish Council to adopt the `Terms of Reference` which was unanimously given.

**Finance.** Cllr. Mrs Soyke reported that the Finance Committee had approved a grant to Langton Green Primary School of £315 for their Marchiennes trip. The Committee had also agreed the sum of £45 for a memorial tree and £75 for food to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friendship Association between the Parish Council and Marchiennes.

The current banking crisis would be discussed at the forthcoming Committee Meeting.

The Annual Return had been approved.

Budget Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30pm.

**Footpaths.** Cllr. Stevens reported that WT77 board replaced and that the posts had been reinstated in Southfields.

**Recreation.** Cllr. Ellis reported on the Committee Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The Committee had further considered the increase in field rental for Langton Green Sports Club which they found to be well below TWBC`s rentals.

A cost of £221 had been obtained for an ownership sign.

**K.A.L.C.** Cllr. Colley and Brown would attend the KALC AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

## **2109 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – OCTOBER 2008**

1.	LG Charitable Trust	£	23.76	Hire of Hall
2.	LG Primary School	£	315.00	Grant – Marchiennes Trip
3.	M.R. Lawrence	£	360.00	Grass Cutting - Roopers
4.	M.R. Lawrence	£	130.00	Strimming Common Ground - Ashurst
5.	SE Water	£	8.51	Water - LGRG
6.	RIP Cleaning Services	£	123.38	Canine Refuse
7.	EDF Energy	£	36.65	Street lighting
8.	Teambase	£	103.35	Stationery
9.	British Telecom	£	173.13	Telephone / Fax
10.	EDF Energy	£	113.12	Electricity – LG Pavilion
11.	Record RSS Ltd	£	495.85	Self Closures – Gates Play Area
12.	Society of Local Councils	£	145.00	Subscription
13.	KALC	£	211.50	Finance Information Day
14.	Julia Soyke	£	41.44	Memorial Tree – Marchiennes

15.	Trevor Parker	£	25.25	Travel – Finance Information Day
16.	Pauline Lambell	£	59.99	Repair – Computer
17.	Pauline Lambell	£	11.89	Publisher Disk
18.	Pauline Lambell	£	54.99	Norton Anti Virus
19.	Pauline Lambell	£	64.00	Postage
20.	Pauline Lambell	£	20.97	Stationery / Photocopying
21.	Pauline Lambell	£	13.20	Coffees – Highways Meeting
22.	Pauline Lambell	£	189.37	Travel
23.	Pauline Lambell	£	1,235.93	Salary
24.	Inland Revenue	£	454.71	Tax / NI

TOTAL £4,410.99

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 10.25pm

**CHAIRMAN**