



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in The Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Thursday 22nd January 2015 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Hull, Owen, Parker and Turner

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

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

1. **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
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllrs Milner and Woodward (both prior engagement)
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on **24th November 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
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.

There were no members of the public present.

7. Matters Arising and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported that the hedge and fence erected along the edge of the Langton Green Recreation Ground extension car park were removed as part of the car park improvement works and will not be replaced. Councillors expressed concern at this and requested that the Clerk writes to Kent County Council to voice this concern. It was noted that no additional landscaping is required at present.

The Clerk reported that Greg Clark MP is going to open the Speldhurst playground improvements on Friday 27th March at 4pm.

8. Financial Review: The financial papers were circulated and the Clerk reported that the figures and details of expenditure are in line with expectations.

9. The Green at Langton Green:

- i. Extension of footpath – there was nothing to report.
- ii. Planting of a Yew tree – there was nothing to report.
- iii. Planting of a Hornbeam tree – an initial report has been received from TWBC Tree Officer.
Flooding of footpaths – a Land Registry search to establish ownership of the footpath will be carried out.

10. Maintenance of Council land: There was nothing to report in addition to Item 14 below.

11. Langton Green Recreation Ground:

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there was nothing to report.
- ii. Children’s play area – the report and quotation for repair of the pedal carousel is awaited.
Sports Clubs – the start date for the pavilion work is likely to be delayed to September or beyond.
- iii. Car parks –
 - a. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that one additional ice warning sign is purchased for the extension car park.
 - b. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that one sign saying ‘No HGVs, buses or coaches beyond this point at any time’ is purchased for the extension car park.
 - c. The white lining in the main car park has been done and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to install further yellow lines in the car park.
 - d. Mud on pathways was discussed and will be monitored.
- iv. The Groundsman’s time including maintaining the extension car park will be monitored.
- v. Dog mess – the Clerk to seek consent from the landowner to install the dog bin at the entrance to Shadwell Woods.
- vi. Recycling – bottles are generally fine, the textile bank has to be reported as full from time to time and there has been a problem with cardboard overflowing recently which has been reported and will be monitored.
- vii. Trees – Treework carried out the work on the trees behind the recycling banks at LGRG on 19th and 20th January.
- viii. Use of covered area immediately outside the office outside office hours – this will continue to be monitored. It was noted that Mrs May kindly moved the roses from the bed that was paved over as part of the car park work into the front bed and it was agreed to write and thank her.
- ix. Additional salt bin and salt – it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that an additional salt bin and salt is purchased for the extension car park.

12. Groombridge Christmas Lights: Few of the existing lights in the lime trees were working at Christmas. The Old Groombridge Conservation Area group have suggested LED lights placed in the trees each year and they will be asked to put in a proposal with an application for a grant.

13. Notice Boards: It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that a new double notice board is purchased and erected in an appropriate place on the eastern side of Langton Green.

14. Transfer of land from TWBC: The Clerk reported that the land transfers are going ahead. It was agreed to ask TWBC what their maintenance schedules have been so maintenance can continue

by the Parish Council on a similar basis. Insurance, including the pond at The Boundary has been clarified with Came & Company.

15. Signs on Council land: The 'Signs on Council Land' policy has been adopted by Full Council. The Clerk reported that there are no outstanding requests or issues.

16. Kent Men of the Trees Competition: The planting and award ceremony for the 2014 competition will be held on Tuesday 3rd February at 11am at Pocket Park, Speldhurst. It was agreed to ask if the Mayor could attend. An invitation to participate in the 2015 competition has been received and it was suggested that Langton Green village could enter.

17. Trees: After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that on this occasion a tree is planted outside the property Strathearn in Stonewall Park Road to replace the highway tree that was diseased and felled.

18. CCTV: Following discussion it was agreed in principle that CCTV in certain locations might be useful and that residents views on CCTV in the parish should be included in the Parish Plan questionnaire.

19. Public Rights of Way:

- i. Shadwell Woods – there was nothing to report.
- ii. Clearing of footpaths and disposal of resulting rubbish – any immediate detritus can be put in the over-grown area between the Speldhurst Road and the Recreation Ground and the matter will be monitored and reconsidered when further footpath work is carried out.
- iii. Footpath maps – the map down from the Old Post Office will be installed at The Green by the notice board in due course.
- iv. Footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road – it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that a contribution of £2,232.50 being 50% of the cost of re-surfacing this footpath is made by the Parish Council. KCC have said they do not consider a barrier necessary and Cllr Mrs Hull said she had reservations on safety issues .

20. Items for information: There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

Chairman