



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 at 7.30pm  
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Milner, Cllrs Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Parker, and Woodward

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

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

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

Cllr Milner (Vice Chairman) chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman

**15/025 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.

**15/026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (holiday), Mrs Podbury (illness), Owen (holiday), Pendleton (prior engagement) and Turner (prior engagement)

**15/027 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** The Clerk declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8. h) 15/032 – alternative arrangements for the provision of a mobile phone for the Groundsman.

**15/028 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Several members declared that they had been lobbied about Gatwick.

**15/029 MINUTES: RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **12<sup>th</sup> January 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**15/030 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

Borough Councillor David Jukes reported that East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council have not objected to the second runway at Gatwick but all other councils have. He said that EasyJet have announced that they are not in favour of the proposals either. There was also discussion regarding the old cinema site and he reiterated that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) do not own the site.

County Councillor John Davies reported that the feedback on how the Fire Brigade dealt with the house fire in Langton Green on 21<sup>st</sup> January has been good. He said that the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) response to the Gatwick consultation is excellent. He has received two highways representations from residents in respect of Langton Green and Old Groombridge and a request from Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association for assistance with construction of a path between Blackham and the sports ground. He advised that he does not have any funding available.

**15/031 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were no members of the public present.

**15/032 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Milner in Cllr Owen’s absence**

- a) A Committee meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January and the minutes have been circulated.
- b) There had been two budget virements; £2,500 from contingency to s137 for the grant to Speldhurst School and £500 from contingency to Air Traffic. It was **RESOLVED** that the transfers be approved.
- c) Cllr Milner reported on two interim payments and it was **RESOLVED** to approve these (see list below).
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to underwrite the “damage deposit” to Langton Green Charitable Trust to enable the Rude Mechanicals to use the village hall facilities during their outdoor theatre production on 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to Hospice in the Weald.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £250 to the Samaritans Tunbridge Wells & District.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 6 in favour and 2 against to grant a further £800 to St Mary’s Church for churchyard maintenance. The Clerk was requested to make it clear that this was a one-off payment and additional grants, over and above the normal allocation, will not necessarily be considered in the future. He was also requested to ask them to ensure they keep the churchyard wall clear of vegetation.
- h) The Clerk explained that it would cost more than the amount approved by the Finance Committee to purchase a new mobile phone for the use of the Groundsman and that there is a second hand one available from him for £35. He left the room for the discussion and decision. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the second hand mobile phone for the use of the Groundsman at a cost of £35. The Clerk re-joined the meeting.

**15/033 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Turner**

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in January</u>			
BT PLC	DD	33.25	Mobile phone bill
Sainsbury’s	AO56	16.00	Office equipment
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£49.25</b>	
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT475	12.00	Meeting room hire
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT476	27.00	Meeting room hire
Treework	MT477	1,332.00	Work at LGRG
M Flemington	MT478	694.63	Salary
M Flemington	MT479	48.15	Expenses
C May	MT480	1,466.68	Salary
C May	MT481	17.55	Expenses
HMRC	MT482	772.76	Tax & NI
Miss K Lawrence	MT483	15.00	Cleaner
Mr L Cooper	MT484	404.00	Groundsman’s duties
KCC (KCS)	DD	572.06	Photocopier
RIP Cleaning Services	MT485	216.00	Canine refuse
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>£5,577.83</b>	

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

**15/034 HIGHWAYS:** There had been no meeting since the last Full Council. The next Committee meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Langridge reported that he and Cllr Barrington-Johnson are carrying out traffic surveys at The Hare junction on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and he and Rusthall Parish Council are meeting The Freight Transport Association on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February. He reported that TWBC have funding available for rural bus stop shelters and will assist with two shelters along the A264 in Langton Green if SPC pay £500 towards each one. It was **RESOLVED** to pay a total of £1000 towards the cost of the two bus stop shelters.

**15/035 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):**

- a) The Clerk reported that an email has been received from Langton Green Sports Club and circulated to Councillors with an update on the pavilion building work.
- b) The Clerk reported that the car park work has been completed including the drainage issues with the kerbing. There is further yellow lining to be done including re-lining sections of the disabled bays outside the Office.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to grant permission for a charity event to be held on LGRG on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**15/036 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC:** The Clerk reported that the transfer forms have been received. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Milner be given authority to sign the forms in the Chairman's absence and for Donaldson West to complete the transfer.

**15/037 NEWSLETTERS:** The draft Newsletter was agreed and Councillors commended Cllr Langridge's work once again for its preparation. It was agreed not to send the Newsletters out using Royal Mail because of the cost but to continue with hand delivery by Councillors and volunteers.

**15/038 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S (KCC) CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN KENT:** It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors email their views to the Clerk who will respond on behalf of the Parish Council and that Councillors may also respond individually if they wish.

**15/039 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Cllr Milner referred to the report on the meeting with Speldhurst School on 15<sup>th</sup> January attended by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk. The next KALC area committee meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The KALC survey of the quality of TWBC planning decisions will be considered at the planning committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Greg Clark MP has confirmed that he has written to Kris Hopkins MP to advise him of SPC opposition to the introduction of caps or referendum triggers on rises in Parish Council precepts.

**15/040 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) **Governance** – There has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- b) **Planning** – There has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.
- c) **Amenities** – A Committee meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and the minutes have been circulated.
  - i. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase one additional ice warning sign for the extension car park.
  - ii. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a sign for the extension car park stating "No coaches, buses or HGVs beyond this point".
  - iii. It was **RESOLVED** to install additional yellow lines in LGRG car park.
  - iv. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase and additional salt bin and additional salt for LGRG car park extension
  - v. It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £2,232.50 being 50% of the cost of the improvements to the footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road and funds would be drawn on the contingency account. Councillors agreed that an appropriate barrier should be installed for safety reasons and the Clerk was requested negotiate the installation with Jonathan Bibby of KCC and refer the cost at the March meeting of Full Council.
- d) **Air Traffic** – A Committee meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and the minutes have been circulated. In addition Cllr Barrington-Johnson gave a brief report on the meeting with Greg Clark MP and said that

HWCAAG had requested Gatwick to meet all member Councils together but Gatwick have declined and arranged one meeting so far with only five member Councils not including SPC. The Clerk was requested to establish a meeting with Gatwick.

- e) **Footpaths** – there was nothing to report.
- f) **KALC** – the next area committee meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> February.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – A meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> January and the notes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> February. The proposed terms of reference were discussed and will be on the agenda for approval at the March Full Council meeting. Cllr Woodward advised that he would like to step down from the working group due to other commitments. Cllr Langridge said that it had been a struggle but he felt that the direction of the group was back on track under the leadership of Ken Howes. He said that more members were needed and it was important that there was support in the form of minute taking.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that Vicky Ellis of CPRE had visited the three schools in the parish on 26<sup>th</sup> January to talk about the environment and wildlife projects and that the tree planting and award ceremony in Pocket Park will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> February with The Mayor in attendance.
- i) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that there is a possibility of a showing of the film “War Horse” on The Green in late summer/early autumn.
- j) **Security** – Cllr Langridge confirmed that CCTV in the parish has been considered by the Amenities committee and will be on the agenda for the next Highways Committee meeting.

**15/041 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015:** There were none.

**15/042 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- 1. Hospice in the Weald News Winter 2015
- 2. Letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> January from the Mayor thanking the Parish Council for the contribution to the Mayor’s Christmas Toy Appeal 2014
- 3. Email dated 19<sup>th</sup> January from Mr Poynter of Park Farm, Langton Road regarding highway safety issues
- 4. Email dated 21<sup>st</sup> January from Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association advising that they have been offered a £25,000 grant from the Sport England Flood Relief programme
- 5. Letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January from Unity Trust Bank advising of changes to their payment processing services
- 6. Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> from Greg Clark MP thanking the Chairman for her letter and advising that he has written to Kris Hopkins MP to advise of SPC opposition to the introduction of caps or referendum triggers on rises in Parish Council precepts
- 7. Langton Green Primary School Newsletter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- 8. Speldhurst Playground Refurbishment Project weekly update report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- 9. Affordable Rural Housing: A practical guide for Parish Councils received from the Rural Housing Alliance
- 10. Old Groombridge Conservation Group Newsletter

**15/043 DIARY DATES:**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Full Council meeting – LGVH**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Kent Men of the Trees Tree Planting ceremony and award – Pocket Park, Speldhurst – 11am**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Planning meeting – Office**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – HWCAAG meeting – Chiddingstone – 7.30pm**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Parish Plan working group meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Speedwatch – 8.30am**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – KALC Area Committee meeting – 7.30pm**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Highways meeting – Office – 11am**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Village Hall**

**15/044 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Langridge said that fire engines from Cranbrook, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook and Tunbridge Wells had attended the house fire in Langton Green on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Cllr Milner reported that he has attended a meeting at Langton Green Primary School to finish updating the Travel Plan which had now been submitted.

Cllr Mrs Horne reported that she had encountered people on motor bikes in Shadwell Woods and had advised them that this is prohibited.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman