



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

**Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held  
on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cllrs Pate (Chairman), Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Rowe, Mrs Soyke and Mrs Woodliffe.

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Neve – Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE**

County Cllr McInroy and Borough Cllr Allen were in attendance. Apologies had been received from Borough Cllrs Stanyer and Ms Willis.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**21/127 To enquire if anyone intends to record the meeting**

No-one present intended to record the meeting.

**21/128 To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ellery, Rajah, Scarbrough and Turner for Covid-related reasons, Cllr Mrs Lyle for health reasons and Cllr Myles due to work commitments.

**21/129 Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

**21/130 Declarations of Lobbying**

There were none.

### **21/131 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes, previously forwarded to Members were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **21/132 Borough and County Councillors' Reports**

County Cllr McInroy gave a verbal report outlining the following:

- Highways - Cllr McInroy reported that KCC had carried out resurfacing works at Dornden Drive and Great Footway in May and would be returning to address some minor defects which should be finished in August. This had arisen from a direct contact from a resident. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council could be notified of any future works. Cllr McInroy offered to assist the Parish Council with any future requests for road patching, re-surfacing, speed reductions and other projects where required.
- Health Matters – Cllr McInroy reported on the latest Covid figures for the county, which he would circulate. Although government restrictions were shortly due to be relaxed, he urged caution as the number of cases were increasing, especially in the younger age group.  
Cllr Langridge added that The Open Golf tournament which was due to be played at Sandwich, Kent would impact the Covid figures for Kent.

Borough Cllr Allen had nothing to report.

County Cllr McInroy left the meeting at this point.

### **21/133 Public Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

### **21/134 Appointment of Committees/Working Groups (WG)**

- a) Cllr Barrington-Johnson had been elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee.
- b) Cllr Pate had been re-elected as Chairman of the Highways WG. Cllr Barrington-Johnson had joined the Working Group and Mr Whittaker of the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) would be joining as a member of the public (MoP).
- c) Cllr Rowe had been re-elected as Chairman of the Amenities WG.
- d) Cllr Langridge had joined of the Environment WG. It was confirmed that five MoP had joined the WG.
- e) A Working Group to consider the Co-Option applications was set up, comprising of Cllrs Pate, Barrington-Johnson and Cllr Rowe. There had been two interested candidates and a zoom interview would take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm.

### **21/135 Finance Committee**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Clerk reported that a Finance Committee meeting would need to be set up later this month.

- a) There had been no meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) Report on budget virements: There were no budget virements to report.
- c) Report on interim payments made since the last meeting: Unity Bank Account; The payment listed in May to Cloudy IT was reversed and the correct amount of £1,596.00 paid; £24.72 to BT for mobile. Mastercard: £9.00 fees; £143.88 Zoom subscription; £63.92\* Rymans for stationery; £30.00\* to Land Registry for land enquiries.
- d) Report on decisions made under delegated authority are starred above.

- e) At the Full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April, it had been agreed to purchase a SID at £3,000. As the purchase had to be made through KCC the pricing was more expensive and the total cost was £4,185.65, therefore the additional funding was requested to enable the purchase to go ahead: **RESOLVED** that the funds to enable the purchase of a mini-SID with data collecting capability be increased to £4,185.65 on the recommendation of the Highways WG. The Chairman would confer with County Cllr McInroy about the difference in cost.
- f) The Amenities WG had proposed:
1. Options to carry out works to smarten up the flower bed area at the front of SPC's offices: **RESOLVED** that funding up to £200 to carry out works to smarten up the flower bed area at the front of SPC's offices be agreed on the recommendation of the Amenities WG.
  2. A request for funding to provide picnic benches on the LGRG: **RESOLVED** that funding up to £2,000 for the purchase of picnic benches on the LGRG be agreed on the recommendation of the Amenities WG. Details of the siting of the benches to be agreed by the Amenities WG. Cllr Langridge agreed to approach the LGVS to contribute toward the provision of the benches.
- g) The contract with BT for SPC's broadband and telephone line ended on 18 June and alternative providers were considered on the suggestion of Cllr Ellery. It was unanimously agreed that the quality and reliability of the service outweighed the potential savings by changing providers: **RESOLVED** that the contract for SPC's broadband and telephone line with BT be renewed and the Clerk was asked to secure a deal around the £48pm he had been quoted.
- h) The Council's insurance was due to be renewed on 1<sup>st</sup> August and on the request of the Governance Committee, the Clerk had sought 3 quotes. Not all the quotes had been received by the time of the meeting so this item would be referred to the Finance Committee for decision.
- i) To consider a grant request from St John's Church, Groombridge, for churchyard maintenance costs: **RESOLVED** that a grant for churchyard maintenance of £1,000 be awarded to St John's Church, Groombridge.

### 21/136 Accounts for Payment

**RESOLVED** that the invoices as listed, be paid.

The Clerk reported that he was disputing a repair cost involved with a van hire company which the Chairman agreed he should continue to fight. The Chairman expressed concern at the cost of the mowing at Langton Green Recreation Ground. The Clerk explained that the Langton Green Community Sports Association was responsible for the contract and SPC were contributing a capped amount of £6,000 per annum and the cost covered a range of grounds maintenance and not just mowing the grass. The Sports Club were aware that no further funds would be available once the cap amount was reached. It was agreed to change the description to Grounds Maintenance in future.

Payee Name	Ref.	Amount £	Detail
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT2017	79.38	Replacement posts
JLM Pest Con	MT2018	150.00	Contract quarter
LGCT	MT2019	50.00	Underlease
St Martin's Church	MT2020	1,000.00	Churchyard maintenance grant
Parish Online	MT2021	240.00	Annual mapping fee
Speed Asset Services	MT2022	401.77	Hire of cherry picker
Kidman's Ltd	MT2023	36.54	Maintenance
Streetlights	MT2024	26.52	Maintenance
Knockout Print	MT2025	315.00	Footpath marker signs
Knockout Print	MT2026	185.00	Newsletters: design and print

Langton Life	MT2027	300.00	Advertisement
Dave's Computer Repairs	MT2028	281.25	Computer maintenance
Neighbourhood Watch	MT2029	100.00	Grant
Agrifactors (Southern) Ltd	MT2030	2,100.00	Mowing of LGRG
The Play Inspection Co Ltd	MT2031	186.00	Annual Play Inspection
BeSure	MT2032	57.00	Pavilion: Alarm reset
M R Lawrence	MT2033	380.00	Mowing LG & Speldhurst
K Harman	MT2034	65.27	Expenses
C May	MT2035	54.48	Expenses
HMRC	MT2036	2,659.87	Tax & NI
Employee's salaries	MT2037	6,083.86	Employee's salaries
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT2038	476.71	Pension contributions
EDF Energy	DD	322.00	Pavilion – electricity
Veolia	DD	181.60	Waste disposal
Castle Water	DD	30.00	Pavilion – water
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£15,762.25</b>	

### 21/137 Planning Committee

Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that the committee had met on 14<sup>th</sup> June. He said the meeting was long because of one application.

### 21/138 Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Lyle, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

### 21/139 Love Where We Live (LWWL)

The Clerk requested recommendations for the LWWL Awards; the deadline for nominations was 30 July. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe suggested that Chris Allen of the Sports Association be put forward for the outstanding effort and contribution he has made to the Langton Green Charitable Sports Association. She agreed to provide some background information for the Clerk to make the nomination on behalf of SPC: **RESOLVED** that Chris Allen of the Sports Association be nominated for the LWWL Awards 2021 under the Individual Hero category.

### 21/140 Boundary Commission Changes

The Clerk invited comments on the boundary commission changes which showed that Speldhurst and Bidborough were included as part of the Tunbridge Wells constituency again. There were no further comments.

### 21/141 EV Charging

Cllr Turner had submitted a report on KCC's electric vehicle charging point scheme. It was suggested that a survey be carried out to assess residents' interest in having Electric Vehicle Chargers available in the parish at LGVH: **RESOLVED** that SPC register its interest in KCC's EV charging point scheme and a survey be organised to assess residents' interest.

### 21/142 Dry Weather Report

Cllr Turner had submitted a report on the South East Water Dry Weather Plan 2021 which was very thorough and well developed. Cllr Turner recommended that the Council endorse and publicise the plan, which was open for consultation until 2 August: **RESOLVED** that SPC endorse, support and publicise the South East Water Dry Weather Plan 2021.

The Chairman asked for it to be recorded that SPC acknowledge Cllr Turner's work and time spent on these last two items.

### **21/143 Chairman's Report**

Cllr Pate reported that:

- He had welcomed Mrs K Neve on her first day as Clerk.
- He had attended a Chairmen's zoom meeting led by Cllr Tom Dawlings, Leader of TWBC, where he had raised concerns that SPC's comments on planning matters were not taken on board. Reassurance was given by William Benson, Chief Executive of TWBC that matters were improving.
- He had met with the Chairman of LGVS, David Whittaker, to discuss tree planting, highways issues and bins. Mr Whittaker would be joining the Highways WG.

### **21/144 Working Groups and Other Reports to include any Meetings held since the last Full Council Meeting, the Draft Minutes having been previously forwarded to all Members.**

- a) **Governance WG** – A meeting would be organised for this month.
- b) **Highway WG** – The Highways WG had met on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Myles and Simon Norton had submitted a comprehensive Traffic Improvement Plan for Old Groombridge and were congratulated on the work they had carried out. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the WG had been considered: **RESOLVED** that SPC directs the Highways Working Group to carry out the mandate set out in the Highways Committee Terms of Reference agreed and dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. All principles of the Terms of Reference apply to the Working Group until further notice. Any decision previously delegated to the Highways Committee must be brought before Full Council. All new WGs to adopt the same wording.
- c) **Amenities WG** – The Amenities WG had met on 30<sup>th</sup> June. A policy on the use of Council land giving delegated authority to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and two other members of the WG to make a decision on requests to use the land had been considered. The ToR were also considered:  
**RESOLVED** –
  - 1) That the Governance WG be requested to consider and adopt the policy on the use of Council land;  
and
  - 2) That SPC directs the Amenities Working Group to carry out the mandate set out in the Amenities Committee Terms of Reference. All principles of the Terms of Reference apply to the Working Group until further notice. Any decision previously delegated to the Amenities Committee must be brought before Full Council.
- d) **Air Traffic WG** – There had been no meeting of the Air Traffic meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Langridge reported that there was a supply of marker signs and directional arrowheads which were being put up by 5 Councillors. Letters were being delivered to householders who had overgrown hedges. The path between Langholm Road and Great Footway needed repairs to be carried out and the Clerk was liaising with Kent Highways who were responsible.
- f) **EWG** – There had been no meeting of the Environment Working Group since the last Full Council meeting.
- g) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.

### **21/145 Covid Compliance**

The meeting had opened with an agreement to remove masks when speaking. Covid precautions were in place during the meeting.

**21/146 Items for Information:**

- The Clerk reported on details of an appeal relating to the Post Office Stores, Barden Road, Speldhurst; a request for financial assistance for funeral costs which had been referred on to TWBC; and a thank you from Joy Podbury.
- The Chairman asked if dates of events happening in the parish could be added to the list of dates circulated to members and asked members to contact the Clerk with any known events.
- Cllr Langridge commented on the accidents happening at the junction of the Hare but were not being reported and suggested that a resident in the immediate locality be asked to notify SPC of any incidents.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Chairman