



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

**MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL ITEM AT FULL COUNCIL ON MONDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2018 AT
7.30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Woodliffe, Pate, Milner, Mercieca, , Rowe, Ellery, Round

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

18/254 REPORT ON THE MEETING WITH TWBC PLANNING DEPARTMENT: The Chairman declared this item on the agenda confidential and not for circulation.

TWBC had invited Speldhurst Parish Councillors and Clerks to a meeting on 16th October 2018 at the Town Hall to discuss the Local Plan. There were two main applications under consideration: –

- Site 231: Land to the west of Speldhurst Road and South of Ferbies: approx. 0.79 hectares with a residential yield of 24 dwellings.
- Site 94: Land at Millford House, Penshurst Road, Speldhurst: approx. 1.46 hectares with a residential yield of 44 dwellings.

A brief discussion was held when the Councillors who attended the TWBC meeting updated Councillors who had been unable to attend. The meeting with TWBC was considered positive and helpful and TWBC expressed interest in hearing SPC's views on the proposals. The Chairman asked Councillors to thoroughly read the documents and think about their responses to the proposals. A full discussion would then take place either after the Full Council meeting in December or at a specially arranged meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact TWBC to confirm when the deadline for SPC's response would be and whether it would be possible to delay the response until the new year. The Chairman said it is important to decide principally as a Council whether Councillors have any strong objections to the proposals and consider the consequences.

Cllr Mrs Price suggested Councillors agreed a set of principles to apply for all the sites as they were considered. She had drafted a list of suggested principles and the Chairman asked if she could circulate it to Councillors. The principles should be aligned as much as possible with the Parish Plan responses which would indicate SPC is representing the wishes of the community. She went on to say that if the developments do go ahead, it is important to establish exactly what benefits the community would like to achieve for example car parking, a tennis court etc and it was noted that TWBC had encouraged SPC Councillors to consider this. Every effort should be made to feed SPC's response back to TWBC before their planners start on their final Local Plan draft.

The Chairman went on to say that following on from discussions at the recent NALC conference he had attended, he confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan, even if unfinished, had the weight of the law behind it however a Parish Plan does not. He asked Councillors to take this into consideration.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.11pm.

Chairman

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