



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 6th OCTOBER 2014 at 7.30pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Pendleton, Parker and Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: 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

14/213 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.

14/214 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Horne and Woodward (both prior engagement) Kent County Councillor John Davies and Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer also sent their apologies

14/215 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: There were none.

14/216 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

14/217 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 1st September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/218 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor David Jukes reported that the cinema has been demolished. He said that KCC are supportive in principle of the proposals for 20mph speed limits outside and near schools and they would fund the traffic orders but additional street furniture will have to be funded by TWBC and Parish Councils. Information is required on traffic incidents in the vicinity of schools and on school routes. He will ask the Estates Office to contact the Clerk regarding the maintenance of the pond at The Boundary to enable the transfer of this land.

Cllr Mrs Hull raised concerns about fly-tipping. Cllr Jukes understood her concerns but said there was no answer in the short term.

Cllr Jukes gave his apologies for the Open Meeting.

14/219 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no members of the public present.

14/220 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- a) A Committee meeting was held on 29th September and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Owen summarised the decisions made at this meeting which are reported in the minutes. The next meeting is on 20th October primarily to recommend a precept for the next financial year. Cllr Owen reported that the previously agreed grant of £25,000 to Speldhurst Recreation Ground for the playground improvements is to be paid this month.
- b) Cllr Owen requested that a virement of £2,500 from the contingency account be approved to facilitate the book-keeping of the grant to Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association made at the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that the transfer be made.
- c) All interim payments had been reported to the Finance Committee and were approved.

14/221 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in September</u>			
St Martin's Church, Ashurst	MT400	1,408.00	Grant – graveyard clearance
BT PLC	DD	265.35	Telephone/Broadband
Archer Signs and Panels Ltd	AO45	36.84	No horse riding stickers
Fire Protection Online Ltd	AO46	42.10	Fire extinguisher
Sainsbury's	AO47	13.00	Petrol
Total payments		£1,765.29	

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Premier Digital	MT401	180.00	Open Meeting Boards
M R Lawrence	MT402	220.00	Mowing & Strimming
Speldhurst Village Hall	MT403	46.25	Meeting room hire
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT404	12.00	Meeting room hire
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT405	76.20	Maintenance supplies
Mr L Cooper	MT406	340.00	Groundsman's duties
Miss K Lawrence	MT407	15.00	Cleaner
C May	MT408	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT409	29.12	Expenses
M Flemington	MT410	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT411	21.15	Expenses
HMRC	MT412	725.60	Tax & NI
Speldhurst Village Recreation	MT413	25,000.00	Playground grant
RIP Cleaning Services	MT414	172.80	Canine refuse
Cory Environmental Services	MT415	919.41	LGRG car park
Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association	MT416	2,500.00	Grant disabled toilet
KALC	MT417	25.00	Training course
St Mary's Church, Speldhurst	MT418	800.00	Churchyard maintenance grant
St John's Church, Groombridge	MT419	800.00	Churchyard maintenance grant
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT420	18.23	Maintenance supplies
South East Water	DD	64.43	Water supply
EDF Energy	DD	160.94	Electricity supply
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	55.00	Non-domestic rates
Unity Trust Alto	Top up	200.00	Top up

Total payments **£34,458.30**

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

14/222 HIGHWAYS: Cllr Langridge reported that the next meeting is on 10th October. Speedwatch dates are being investigated and he and the Clerk are attending a highways seminar on 17th November. Two emails were received from residents regarding the junction of Burnt House Lane/Speldhurst Road which are listed under correspondence received and will be discussed at the highways committee meeting. Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that she has seen debris presumably from recent traffic accidents in Stockland Green Road and Lower Green Road. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Pendleton be a substitute member for this Committee.

14/223 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): The Clerk reported that a request had been received from a resident who is organising a social function for Diwali (he has booked the Village Hall) to hold some minor fireworks on LGRG on the evening of 2nd November. Councillors had concerns about safety and after much discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should request further information about the type of fireworks and confirmation that the group has their own insurance before making a recommendation to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman who will make a delegated decision on whether to grant permission.

14/224 KCC WORKS ON SCHOOL AND LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND CAR PARKS AND FOOTPATHS: The Clerk said that there was little to report. KCC are to send documents from their solicitor regarding ongoing parking rights and a planning consultation notification on details of surfacing, colour finish and drainage of the Parish Council car parking areas has been received. He will contact KCC and explain that the extension car park will deteriorate during the winter months and will become unusable.

14/225 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The Clerk reported that the transfer of land in Ashurst is proceeding but that the transfer of the land at The Boundary, Langton Green will not take place until the issue of the maintenance of the pond is resolved.

14/226 DEFIBRILLATORS: The Clerk referred to the report on defibrillators which was circulated to Councillors that evening. He said that there were two proposals that they were looking in to; one with a grant from BHF and the other from the county association (KALC). He said that a more extensive report will be made for the November meeting with details of maintenance. It was agreed to make a decision at the next Full Council meeting. Cllr Langridge offered to make a comparison of the units.

14/227 PUBLIC OPEN MEETING: The Open Meeting is on Monday 13th October at Speldhurst Village Hall. Refreshments will be served from 7.30pm and the meeting will start at 8pm. As many Councillors as possible were asked to arrive at 7pm to set up the hall. It was agreed to have items for discussion in the following order; Aircraft noise, Parish Plan, Precept, Footpaths and Traffic. The Clerks were asked to organise refreshments, glasses and a microphone. Cllr Barrington-Johnson offered his apologies but said he had prepared a report that can be distributed. Cllrs Milner and Turner were asked to prepare an update on footpaths and the parish plan. Cllrs Mrs Hull and Woodward also offered apologies.

14/228 LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL TRUST: It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs Marianne Buckley be re-appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Langton Green Village Hall Charitable Trust.

14/229 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised of the death of Stan Oxenbury who had been both the Clerk and a Speldhurst Parish Councillor and that his funeral is on 7th October at 2pm at St Paul's, Rusthall. She confirmed that the Clerk will order the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday. She reported that there was a meeting at TWBC last week about the civic amenity vehicle but because there was a plethora of Parish Council meetings she did not attend.

14/230 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – A Committee meeting was held on 1st October and the minutes have been circulated.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amended Financial Standing Orders.
 - ii. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the new Policy on investing Council money.
- b) **Planning** – A Committee meeting was held on 8th September and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 8th October.
- c) **Amenities** – The next Committee meeting is on 24th November. The two new trees at The Green, Langton Green are scheduled to be planted on 11th November.
- d) **Air Traffic** – A Committee meeting was held on 25th September and the minutes have been circulated. A meeting was held with Greg Clark MP on 3rd October and the notes will be circulated.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the letters to be sent to British Airways and EasyJet regarding Airbus aircraft noise.
 - ii. It was **RESOLVED** by a majority vote to approve the letter to be sent to Gatwick Co-ordination Group confirming opposition to the second runway.
 - iii. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Milner be a substitute member for this Committee.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that the letters thanking footpath adopters are being sent this week but that new adopters are still required particularly for the footpaths in Ashurst. The request from the Speldhurst Allotments for resurfacing of the footpath between the Village Hall and Barden Road will be on the agenda for the next Amenities Committee meeting and he advised that KCC PROW (Public Rights of Way) have indicated that they will contribute to the cost of any resurfacing. Cllr Mrs Hull commented that it would be important to consider some sort of safety barrier by Barden Road and to prevent excessive run-off of rainwater into Barden Road.
- f) **KALC** – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys is attending the AGM on 22nd October.
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that the next meeting is on 15th October and a new leader is still required.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that a meeting was held on 2nd October and the notes have been circulated. The notes of her report on the Ecology seminar she attended in September have also been circulated. She reported that the working group has agreed to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee that the speaker from this seminar, Vicky Ellis of CPRE, attends all three schools in the parish to talk to teachers and children about carrying out wildlife/ecological surveys and reporting the findings to Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre - the cost would be £240. The working group would like to take up the Open Spaces Society offer of six months' free membership for the Parish Council.
- i) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that with the agreement of St Mary's Church he is making a grant application to the War Memorials Trust for the restoration/rebuilding of the War Memorial in the churchyard.
- j) **Security** – Cllr Langridge reported that he is investigating CCTV provision and costs.

14/231 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1ST SEPTEMBER 2014: The Clerk to check with Cllr Woodward if he has been in contact with Town & Country Housing.

14/232 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. ACRK (Action with communities in rural Kent) Oast to Coast Autumn 2014
2. KHWP (Kent High Weald Partnership) Weald Wise Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2014
3. Came & Company Council Matters Newsletter Autumn 2014
4. Email dated 6th September from Langton Green Netball Club to thank SPC for their grant
5. Email dated 5th September from KALC acknowledging SPC's decision not to make a financial contribution to the costs of an economic study in respect of east facing slips on the M25
6. Letter dated 22nd September from Mrs Pamela Bulmer of 24 Upper Profit, LG highlighting the dangerous exit from Burnt House Lane on to Speldhurst Road and that she had recently had a narrow miss¹.
7. Email dated 24th September to Cllr Milner from Mrs Ida Blower asking for something to be done about the dangerous blind exit from Burnt House Lane on to Speldhurst Road¹.

8. Email from LGCT advising that their AGM is on Thursday 9th October. All welcome – light refreshments provided. Any issues can be directed to Adrian Moss, The Hall Manager who will raise them on your behalf
9. Email dated 25th September from George Broadbent, life coach, who would like a link from our website to his².
10. Email dated 21st September from St Martin's Church acknowledging receipt of the grant and thanking the Council.
11. Letter from HSBC informing of changes to their T&C for banking
12. Letter dated 1st October from The Mayor's Office regarding the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service at the Tunbridge Wells War Memorial on Sunday 9th November
13. Letter dated October 2014 from the Chairman of Speldhurst Village Hall asking for volunteers to be new Trustees

¹ This will be discussed at the highways committee meeting on 10th October.

² The Clerk will advise him that there are no longer going to be any links on the website.

14/234 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Wednesday 8th October** – Planning meeting - Office
2. **Friday 10th October** – Highways meeting – Office – **11am**
3. **Monday 13th October – Autumn Open Meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall – 7.30pm for 8pm start**
4. **Wednesday 15th October** – Parish Plan Working Group meeting - LGVH
5. **Friday 17th October** – Clerk attending KALC Finance Conference
6. **Monday 20th October** – Finance meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH
7. **Monday 3rd November – Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH**

14/235 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that she received an email from a resident about a planning application they are intending to make. She has passed this to the Assistant Clerk to respond.

Cllr Mrs Hull reported that she has been contacted by a resident who is concerned about the poor state of repair of a number of gravestones in St Mary's churchyard. She has advised them to contact the Church in the first instance.

Cllr Turner reported that he has seen several large lorries using Barden Road recently and Cllr Mrs Podbury reported the same in respect of Lower Green Road/Broomhill Road.

Cllr Milner reported that BT has recently been laying fibre to the cabinets between Langton Green and Speldhurst.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman

