



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 30th April 2015 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Hull, Milner, Owen (arrived 8pm), 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:** Cllr Woodward (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 **22nd January 2015** 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:

New Notice Board for Langton Green – The Clerk reported that KCC Highways have given consent for the notice board to be placed on highway land between Dornden Drive and Newlands, subject to completing highways forms and confirming public liability insurance cover.

The Assistant Clerk to order the new notice board from Greenbarnes.

Trees in the Village Competition 2015 – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that this year's entry is for Langton Green and Cllr Parker agreed to assist her in selecting details of the entry and showing the judges round the village.

Tree for Stonewall Park Road – The Assistant Clerk reported that the replacement tree has been approved by the Finance Committee and it will be planted in the forthcoming planting season.

CCTV – The Clerk reported that Cllr Langridge is obtaining quotations. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk enquire whether SPC could be part of an extension to the TWBC CCTV scheme. **The Clerk to contact TWBC.**

8. Review of Terms of Reference: It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Terms of Reference are adopted for a further year without amendment

9. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG):

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – an email had been received from LGCT regarding youths playing football late at night in the car park – see xi) below.
- ii. Sports Clubs – The Clerk reported that Langton Green Community Sports Club have not had the Football Association’s decision on grant funding yet.
- iii. Cricket Club field rental – The field rental for this season of £750 was approved by the Finance Committee at the meeting on 30th March 2015 Item 14f).
- iv. Stoolball Club field rental – Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to reduce the field rental for this season to £100 to be paid in two instalments of £50.
- v. Children’s play area – The assistant Clerk reported that the repairs to the pedal carousel had been approved by the Finance Committee and will be carried out soon and that the annual playground inspection will be carried out in July.
- vi. Car parks – The Clerk reported that the damage to the stone gate post at the entrance has been repaired. He also reported that one of the posts in the extension car park has been knocked over and will be replaced by the Groundsman.
- vii. Groundsman – there was nothing to report
- viii. Dog mess – there was nothing to report in addition to the discussions under Item 15ii) below.
- ix. Recycling – The Assistant Clerk reported that TWBC have advised that the newspaper recycling container will be removed as they can no longer deal with this recycling following the collapse of Aylesford Newsprint. SPC have put a notice on the container advising residents of this. The container has not been removed yet.
- x. Trees
 - a. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the fallen tree at LGRG is cleared and removed by Treework in accordance with their quotation in the sum of £320 plus VAT.
 - b. A quotation had been received from Treework for carrying out an updated tree Survey in the sum of £480 plus VAT. After discussion it was agreed to obtain an additional quotation from an arboriculturalist.
- xi. Use of car park and covered area outside office – the use of the car park see i) above and the covered area outside the office will continue to be monitored.

10. The Green at Langton Green (LGG):

- i. A quotation had been received from Treework for cutting back the side and reducing the height of the hedge adjoining The Vicarage in the total sum of £800 plus VAT. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to instruct Treework to carry out the work only to cut back the side of the hedge to give good clearance to the path in the sum of £160 plus VAT and to obtain another quote for the remainder of the work.

11. The Green at Groombridge (GG):

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to permit Old Groombridge Conservation Group to hold a May Fayre on The Green on the late May bank holiday, subject to them having adequate public liability insurance and making appropriate arrangements for closing the road on SPC land.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to permit Old Groombridge Conservation Group to plant narcissi and crocus bulbs on the upper part of The Green this autumn.
- iii. The Assistant Clerk reported that the old Christmas lights will be removed from the lime trees when they have been pollarded. Old Groombridge Conservation Group may submit proposals for the future Christmas lights together with an application for a grant from SPC.

12. The Pocket Park at Speldhurst (SPP):

- i. A quotation had been received from Treework for carrying out an updated tree survey of all the trees at Roopers and Pocket Park in the sum of £320 plus VAT. After discussion it was agreed to obtain an additional quotation from an arboriculturalist.

13. Transfer of land from TWBC: The Clerk reported that the land transfers are with the Solicitors. He also reported that TWBC have provided details and costings of the current maintenance schedules.

14. Signs on Council land: The Assistant Clerk reported that there have recently been signs for the Burrswood sponsored walk and the Groombridge May Day bank holiday May Fair. They had not asked for permission but the signs are temporary, small and not causing any obstruction. **The Assistant Clerk to continue to monitor.**

15. Public Rights of Way:

- i. Shadwell Wood's dog waste bin – the Assistant Clerk reported that Cllr Mrs Horne has established that the owner of the land leading from Langton Road into Shadwell Woods is not prepared to have a dog waste bin on any of his land. Alternative locations were discussed and it was agreed to investigate whether the school would be willing to have the dog waste bin on the land by the entrance to the school car park.
- ii. Footpath between Speldhurst Village Hall and Barden Road – the Assistant Clerk reported that an email had been received from Speldhurst Allotment Association expressing concern that children could cycle etc. down the tarmac below the barrier into Barden Road. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to put a sign on the barrier stating that there is a road at the bottom of the path, to write to the residents of Turley Cottages advising them that we are considering a further barrier, to ask Speldhurst School to include this path within their travel plan and to contact Speldhurst Village Hall and ask them to advise users of the situation.

16. Financial Review: The financial papers were circulated and the budget for 2016/17 would be considered at the next meeting

17. Items for information:

Cllr Mrs Hull advised that some but not all of the suckers on the trees in Ferbies have been removed.

Cllr Turner suggested and it was agreed that a wider strip adjacent to the path in Pocket Park is cut.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman