



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 Monday 10th September 2012 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Parker and Owen

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk and Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

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

1. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Mrs Hull, Turner and Woodward (prior engagement)
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **The Minutes of 17th July 2012** were signed as a correct record, with the addition of 'be' in Item 9ii)

5. Matters Arising and Correspondence

Cllr Parker asked if reimbursement had been received from TWBC for the work at The Green and Ashurst Flagpole. The Clerk said that it has.

Cllr Milner reported that he would like to consider purchasing a strimmer for use for clearance work and the Clerk advised that he would add this to the Finance Agenda. There were four items of correspondence.

The Clerk had received a visit from Mr Burden of Speldhurst regarding a gate in to pocket park and Cllr Milner has now met with him and made the necessary repair. An email from Mr Tom Dobra a University student offering to help with walking of footpaths had been received. He had also received an email from a resident concerning the overgrown state of WT109. Cllr Milner and Cllr Langridge are attending to this. In addition two emails were received in response to the article in Langton Life and the letter sent to residents about keeping the Twittens clear.

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. Financial Review

The figures were reviewed. The Clerk reported that consideration will be given to next year's budget at next month's Finance Meeting. He advised that there will be an increase in Ashurst maintenance because of extra strimming required at the entrance to Clayton's Lane and Langton Green maintenance will increase due to the Groundsman's additional duties. He added that the whole of the tree budget will have been used this year. In addition the Play Area will be slightly over-budget because of the inspection course attended this year. The Sports Club rental is still under discussion and the lease payments from the Trustees will be down to £1,000 because of the surrender of the additional car park area back to SPC.

8. Terms of Reference

The existing Terms of Reference were discussed. It was **AGREED** that item 3b) will be deleted as no longer relevant. The Terms of Reference will be amended and be on the Agenda for approval and adoption at the Full Council meeting on 1st October.

9. Langton Green War Memorial

- i. The War Memorial is the responsibility of Speldhurst Parish Council. A letter was received recently from All Saints Church regarding its current condition and asking about a maintenance plan for the War Memorial. The Clerk reported that the Groundsman has cleared all the weeds and will do a further tidy up just before Remembrance Sunday.
- ii. The Clerk advised that further cleaning and restoration of the stonework will be required and he said it was important that it should be done next year as it was the Church's 150th anniversary and the following year would be the 100th anniversary of the Great War. He will discuss the costs of cleaning, a survey and any necessary remedial work with Burslem Monumental Stonemasons.

10. Next Phase of Enhancement on The Green

- i. The Clerk has drafted a letter to be sent to the residents. After discussion some amendments were made and **the Clerk will send the letter to the residents.**
- ii. A new Notice Board will be ordered and installed on one of the islands on The Green.
- iii. The Clerk reported that Royal Mail have confirmed that the post box can remain at the Old Post Office and does not need to be moved to The Green.

11. Langton Green Recreation Ground

- i. Pavilion - the Clerk reported that he had sent an email to the Sports Club raising the issues that were discussed at the Full Council meeting on 6th September. He added that it is the intention to involve the Sports Club at the October Open Meeting with the plans for the pavilion available at the meeting.
- ii. The Clerk reported that matters are finalised with regard to the car park and Village Hall lease.
- iii. The Annual Playground Inspection Report was discussed. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk will review the report and action the necessary points and report at the next meeting. Specific attention was drawn to the path beside the ball stop netting, whose surface needs to be improved. In addition, Jacksons will be asked to repair the ball stop netting. Between two of the trees near the teen play area, there is a large piece of metal protruding from the ground which must be removed as it is a trip hazard. It was reported that there is a gap under the fence of the main play area that requires attention. The Clerk has spoken to company that repaired the Gyrospiral because it is still making a noise and they will attend to it. **The Clerk to attend to all of these items.**
- iv. The Groundsman has cut back the shrubs so that the CCTV camera covering this area is not obstructed and the area in front of the extension car park. The Clerk

advised that he will replace the overflow car park signs with Speldhurst Parish Council signs.

- v. It has been decided to persevere with the current dog waste bags.
- vi. A quote of £285 for the ownership sign from All Signs has been received and this will be put before the Finance Committee for consideration.
- vii. The Clerk advised that Cllr Mrs Jeffreys is working on the policy for icy/snowy weather.
- viii. The Clerk reported that there is a problem with the textile recycling bank overflowing and that it is the responsibility of a Charity and not TWBC. The Clerk has reported it and will do so again.
- ix. Cllr Milner reported that he is going to start moving the soil by the container. The laurels have been planted but some are not thriving at present. He will attend to them and add more laurels if necessary. He will arrange to put shelving in the container in due course.
- x. The Clerk recommended that the same rental be charged to the Football Club for the coming season as last year.
- xi. Cllr Milner will remove the three dead trees behind the Village Hall and discuss with Speldhurst Nurseries suitable replacement species. The cost will be reported to the Finance Committee. It may be that Langton Green Rural Society's Diamond Jubilee tree makes up one of the three.
- xii. The Clerk reported that it is not cost-effective to repair the damaged bench and the intention is to replace it with a Diamond Jubilee bench. This would be referred to the Finance Committee. **The Clerk to obtain costs.**
- xiii. The Clerk reported that he has asked Tate Fencing to replace the damaged post and to provide several spares to be stored in the container for any future replacements necessary.
- xiv. The Clerk reported that the quality of the CCTV on the car park is poor and that when Ashford Security carry out the maintenance service he will ask them if it can be improved.

12. Trees in the Parish

- i. The urgent tree work at LGRG has been carried out. A schedule for the next items requiring work will be prepared shortly.
- ii. The tree planting in Furzefield Avenue and Southfields, Speldhurst is scheduled to take place in October/November 2012. Offers of contributions towards the cost from residents and Councillors have been received.
- iii. Treework have carried out the survey of the trees in the Pocket Park and the other areas at Roopers. The report indicates some work is required quite urgently. The Clerk has also asked Dan Docker TWBC Tree Officer to inspect the trees and comment on the report.
- iv. The Clerk has asked Dan Docker to inspect the Copper Beech Tree on The Green at Langton Green which is starting to obscure the Village Sign. He has recommended removal but it was considered that the residents would be consulted first.

13. Footpaths

- i. The letters to residents whose land abuts the Twittens were sent out.
- ii. Cllr Milner reported that he has written to Jonathan Bibby of Kent Council Council forwarding the email from the rider whose horse fell on the Bridleway in Shadwell Wood, asking what action KCC are going to take about the surface of the Bridleway.
- iii. Shadwell Wood is covered in ii. above

14. Asset Register

Work is in progress

15. Items for Information

The Clerk reported that during term time the LGRG car park is always full and at times overflowing at 3/3.30pm when it is school and nursery pick up time. There was some preliminary discussion regarding the possible use of the overflow car parking area. This will be discussed further in due course.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

Chairman