



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE
ASHURST VILLAGE HALL, ASHURST**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Price, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke, Kerby, Parker, Turner, Allen (8pm), Mercieca

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillors James McInroy, and Borough Councillors David Jukes and Julian Stanyer.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were three members of the public present.

17/175 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.

17/176 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Horne (previous engagement).

17/177 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllr Mrs Jeffrey declared an interest in item 16c.

17/178 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

17/179 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **7th August 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17/180 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

- KCC Cllr McInroy had nothing to report
- Both TWBC Cllrs Jukes and Stanyer reported that August had been quiet and there was nothing specific to report
- TWBC Cllr Mrs Soyke, who is the current Mayor, said she had filled in the requisite application form to be allowed to stand again as a candidate for the Conservatives in the local Borough elections next May. After the necessary interview she was surprised and disappointed to hear that she had been rejected by the 5-man local selection panel. There was no explanation, and appeals are not allowed. The story would be appearing in the Times local paper, and Cllr Mrs Soyke wanted to let the Parish Council know in advance. Cllrs expressed amazement and Cllr Barrington-Johnson thanked Cllr Mrs Soyke for keeping SPC informed.
- TWBC Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she had been contacted by several residents in response to the planning application for the development of 8 houses at Scriventon Farm. She will speak to TWBC Planning Department regarding the possibility of calling it in and report back.

17/181 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were three members of the public present to observe the meeting with no specific topics to bring to the Council.

17/182 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

- a) There has been no Finance Committee meeting since the last Full Council.
- b) Virements – there was one virement; a transfer from the contingency account to LGRG Maintenance for £2589 to pay for the white-lining at the car park.
- c) Interim payments – the following additional payments were made in August: On MasterCard £6 monthly charge; *£40.69 on paint and materials; *£11.89 petrol. From the current account £728.94 Ashurst Gateway; £107.46 to MasterCard; £69.60 Waste disposal and £30.00 Mobile
- d) Payments made under delegated authority £40.69 and £11.89 as above

17/183 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr TurnerAdditional payments made in August

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
<u>Unity Trust Current Account</u>			
KCC Highways	MT1105	728.94	Defibrillator and Cabinet
Unity Trust MasterCard	Transfer	107.46	To clear
Veolia	DD	69.60	Waste collection LGRG
BT	DD	30.00	Mobile
<u>MasterCard</u>			
Bank charge	DD	6.00	Card monthly charge
B&Q*	MC050	40.69	Paint and materials
Langton Green Service Station*	MC051	11.89	Petrol

*Payment made under Clerk's delegated authority

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
Viking Direct	MT1106	95.56	Stationery and stamps
R C Milner	MT1107	64.00	Cement etc
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT1108	52.61	posts and mix
LGCT	MT1109	36.00	Meeting room
St Mary's Church, Speldhurst	MT1110	1,000.00	Grant re churchyard
C May	MT1111	30.80	Expenses
Langton Life	MT1113	250.00	Advertisement
Treework	MT1114	336.00	Ash dieback survey
Kate Harman	MT1115	21.15	expenses
Lunar Services	MT1116	100.00	Pavilion electric repair
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT1117	52.01	Posts and mix
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1118	216.00	Canine refuse
M R Lawrence	MT1119	320.00	Mowing and strimming
Mr L Cooper	MT1120	21.37	Expenses
M Flemington	MT1122	105.00	Salary
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT1112	488.83	Dog bags
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT1117	52.61	Duplication
BT PLC	DD	397.74	Broadband and Telephone
KCC (KCS)	DD	297.90	Photocopier
Mr L Cooper	MT1121	640.70	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1123	605.60	Salary

C May	MT1124	1,807.47	Salary
NEST	MT1125	25.96	Pension contributions
HMRC	MT1126	2,626.28	Tax and NI
Total:		£9,538.97	

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

17/184 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: Cllr Milner reported the following:-

- There had not been a meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- He and the Groundsman had tarmacked the area around the new footpath barrier in Langton Green, making it wheelchair-friendly.
- Speedwatch- a training session had been organised for Tuesday 12th September at 8.30am in Langton Green. Cllrs Milner, Mercieca and Allen will attend.
- SID – the new SID is being returned because it is faulty.
- There was nothing further to report at this stage on Gateways; 20mph or the speed reduction of 60-40mph.

17/185 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:-

- a) The recreation ground had been fairly quiet during the summer, apart from football summer camps.
- b) A maintenance service contract is being investigated. They already have one quote but are struggling to find a comparison. Councillors agreed this would come under 'Finance'.
- c) Short term quotes are also being sought by the Sports Association for aeration of the pitches which Cllr Mrs Lyle will chase up.

17/186 PARISH PLAN: There was nothing to report

17/187 ASH DIE BACK: Treework had carried out a survey on the trees in the Parish which had been distributed to Councillors. Cllr Mrs Podbury had received an email from Dan Docker suggesting waiting a further year and reassessing the trees then which may give some trees an opportunity to recover, grow a natural resistance and provide stock from which to grow new trees. We should also consider the wildlife that relies on ash trees to survive. It was suggested that native-grown trees should be used in future, rather than imported ones to reduce the risk of bringing disease into the country. It was **RESOLVED** to note the comments from Treework and Dan Docker and revisit the matter in 2018.

17/188 LGCT TRUSTEE ELECTION – Cllr Barrington-Johnson asked Marianne Buckley if she would be happy to continue as Trustee and she agreed she would. It was **RESOLVED** to elect Marianne Buckley as LGCT Trustee for a further year but she said that this will be her last year.

17/189 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Nothing to report

17/190 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had been a meeting of the Governance Committee on 14th August, the minutes of which had been distributed. There was nothing further to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price reported that a committee meeting had been held on 31st August but the minutes were yet to be circulated.
 - A new application for a development of 8 houses at Scriventon Farm was contentious and several residents had attended the planning meeting. Concerns were mainly about safety, particularly where the access road is planned onto Barden Road and also regarding the opening up of the AONB and Greenbelt. SPC had objected to the application. Cllr Stanyer said that he was pleased SPC had objected to this application, he felt the access proposals are totally unacceptable and that he will consider calling it in. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she would let him have the necessary information.

- The Call for Sites information is now available on the TWBC website.
 - A Greenbelt Review had been carried out by TWBC which rated each area of Greenbelt against a list of 5 objectives. Land needs to meet at least 2 of the objectives to retain its Greenbelt status. Land that fails to meet the requirements may be downgraded which may affect several areas of Greenbelt in the Parish. Cllr Mrs Price said that this needs to be monitored.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there had not been a meeting of the Amenities Committee since the last Full Council.
The pond in The Boundary – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys explained that she and her neighbours are having to scoop the duckweed off of the pond on a daily basis and was looking to treat the water in an effort to clear it. She said that residents of The Boundary would be willing to purchase Aquaplancton and apply it and she was looking for permission to do so. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that she had not had the product recommended to her but that it had come up in a search for appropriate treatments. Cllrs Mrs Soyke said that she would find out which product was used in the pond at The Old Post Office in Tunbridge Wells and report back to Cllr Mrs Jeffreys. It was **RESOLVED** that whilst Councillors had no objections to the pond being treated, further investigation would be carried out and the matter would be revisited at Full Council in October.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported the following:-
- There had not been a meeting since the last Full Council. The Noise Management Board meeting was being held on 7th September and the HWCAAG meeting will be held soon afterwards. It is hoped to hold an Air Traffic meeting before the HWCAAG meeting.
 - The current Chairman of HWCAAG Cllr Colin Stratton-Brown had been involved in a serious road traffic accident. HWCAAG are therefore looking for a new Chairman.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that he had been working on issues alerted to him by residents in Stockland Green and Langton Green.
- f) **KALC** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that the TW Area KALC meeting had been deferred to 4th October. He said the Parish Chairmen's' meeting had been brought forward to 5th September.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – there was nothing to report

17/191 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7th August 2017 – there were none.

17/192 CLERK'S REPORT:

- The Clerk reported that PK Littlejohn had signed off the audit without any comments.
- The Clerk noted the new format for weekly planning applications and in particular the application for Groombridge Place. Cllr Kerby explained that Groombridge Place had been operating without planning permission for their events and had now submitted two applications for events in the grounds. Residents of Groombridge are concerned regarding the suggested locations of future events. The application will be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting.

17/193 DIARY DATES:

Monday 18th September – Amenities Committee Office 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th September – Planning Committee Venue TBA 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th September – Co-option to be advertised if no election called

Wednesday 27th September – KALC Social Media Course Lenham 2.30pm-5.30pm

Monday 2nd October – Full Council Meeting – Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall 7.30pm

17/194 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that a meeting was needed regarding the new website.
- Cllr Parker advised that Tunbridge Wells Waste and Recycling Centre is to temporarily close from Monday 18th September for up to ten weeks, to repair the fire damage. The advice is to use the facility in Sevenoaks.
- Cllr Barrington-Johnson advised Councillors that Cllr Mrs Horne had resigned from SPC and that the process of finding her replacement will commence on 5th September. He said that he had written to Cllr Mrs Horne thanking her and had intended to thank her personally in the meeting for all her hard work

during her time as a councillor. Given her absence he confirmed he would write to her on behalf of all Councillors. The Clerk said that Cllr Mrs Horne had asked him to pass on her thanks to councillors for their help during her term.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman