



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 17th March at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Owen, Parker, Turner and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

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

1. **To receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Mrs Hull (holiday)
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on **27th January 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
5. **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.

6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** The Clerk reported that further documentation has been received from TWBC regarding the land to be handed over to SPC and a statutory declaration was required to be signed. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys explained that this is normal procedure on this type of lease (see 11i)
The Clerk reported that Rusthall Parish Council are considering requesting a boundary change and have asked SPC for details of the residents in Southwood Road, Westwood Road and Lower Green Road that they need to consult. There is a rumour that a new pavilion is proposed at Southwood Road recreation ground costing £2-3 million.
7. **Financial Review:** The clerk circulated the figures and details of expenditure and advised that there is no further expenditure due in this financial year.
8. **Review of Terms of Reference:** It was agreed to add that 'the Committee will monitor the condition and maintenance of the public rights of way in the Parish' and to recommend adoption to Full Council at the meeting on 7th April.

9. The Green at Langton Green:

- i. Re-surfacing of footpath –The Clerk reported that KCC Highways are due to carry out the re-surfacing in the new financial year and that SPC will contribute 50% of the cost. He advised that they will also complete the extension of the kerbing along the verge but this was covered by the Highways budget.
- ii. Planting of a tree – The Yew tree will be planted at the notice board end of The Green when all the South East Water works are completed.
- iii. Tree to replace the Copper Beech - The Assistant Clerk reported that the replacement species will be agreed with the TWBC Tree Officer and the tree planted in the next planting season.

10. Trees on Council land: Town & Country Housing have cleared the tree debris from LGRG and conditions will allow the clearing of the tree debris from LGRG and Pocket Park, Speldhurst by Treework shortly.

11. Langton Green Recreation Ground:

- i. Sports Pavilion – The leases have been signed and the Clerk is completing a statutory declaration to exclude the leases from the Landlord and Tenant Act.
- ii. Following confirmation from the cricket club that just one other club is going to use the pitch for matches it was **RESOLVED** to charge a field rental of £800 in three instalments (£200; £300 and £300) for 2014.
- iii. The clerk reported that the Groundsman is doing a very good job keeping the LGRG and car park clean and tidy and that the sweeping by Cory can now be cancelled when the new contract is due.
- iv. Dog mess – The Groundsman monitors the situation.
- v. Recycling –The situation with the bottle banks has improved with the two extra bottle banks provided by TWBC.
- vi. It was **RESOLVED** to give permission for Langton Green Community Sports Association Ltd to use LGRG for the weekend of 31st May/1st June for the Football Fiesta.

12. Groombridge Christmas Lights: The Clerk will liaise with the residents about the possible options for the lights at The Green.

13. New Notice Board at Speldhurst Chapel: It was **RESOLVED** to order a new double notice board in the new financial year for Speldhurst Chapel and to move the existing single notice board to Ashurst.

14. Public Rights of Way:

- i. Cllr Milner reported that Dr Powell has responded to a letter sent to him regarding fallen trees etc. in Shadwell Wood. Cllr Milner has prepared a map with details of the work required to be sent to Dr Powell. KCC will be repairing the bridge including digging out the impeding tree roots.
- ii. The production of a map of the footpaths in the parish was discussed. Cllr Parker suggested including footpaths information on the website.

15. Asset Register: The definitive asset register is work in progress.

16. Items for information:

Cllr Parker reported that Langton Green Rural Society is offering some money to assist with maintenance of footpaths in Langton Green.

Cllr Owen reported that the stile on the footpath adjacent to Coopers Lane is in poor repair.

The Clerk reported that the expenditure on the Groundsman's chainsaw course will not be until the new financial year.

Cllr Turner reported that there is fly tipping in Broom Lane beyond the road closed signs.

Cllr Turner reported that the bus has hit and damaged the stone wall in Peshurst Road, Speldhurst.

The Clerk advised that this was Cllr Milner's last meeting as Chairman of the Amenities Committee and all members thanked him for his hard work.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman