



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury (until 8.00pm), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Price, Kerby, Mercieca, Ellery, Allen

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There was one member of the public present.

**18/001 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.

**18/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies received from Cllr Parker, Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and the Clerk - all due to illness and Borough Cllrs Stanyer and Jukes and County Cllr James McInroy – all previous engagements.

**18/003 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**18/004 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** There were none.

**18/005 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **4<sup>th</sup> December 2017** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendments: -  
Item 17/258 "**RESOLVED** that Speldhurst Parish Council Ltd be established" be changed to read "**RESOLVED** that SPC Pavilion Ltd be established". "Cllr Mrs Lyle had circulated" be changed to "The Clerk had circulated" and that "Articles of Associated" be changed to "Articles of Association".

**18/006 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR:** Mrs Woodliffe was co-opted onto the Council. She took her seat with Councillors and the Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Woodliffe on behalf of SPC and Cllr Mrs Soyke wished her good luck. She then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and it was **RESOLVED** (at 8.30pm) that she be assigned to the Highways and Amenities Committees. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe expressed an interest in Footpaths and it was agreed she would discuss the working group with Cllr Milner.

**18/007 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

- Cllr Mrs Soyke said that TWBC may be considered as 'guinea pigs' for a new trial scheme to enable them to retain 60% of business rates. She will report back once she has more information.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she was very disappointed that permission had been granted for the Southwood Road recreation ground to go ahead bearing in mind the strong objections received and that the decision had been made based on demand calculated in 2006. She said that she had been speaking to members of Planning at TWBC. Cllr Mrs Soyke noted that High Weald AONB had more applications approved in recent

years than any other AONB areas.

**18/008 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** there were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

**18/009 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had been a Finance Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the minutes having previously been circulated.
- b) Virements – there were no virements.
- a) Interim payments – Unity bank current account: £611.42 transfer to clear MasterCard; £87.00 Waste removal; £1,483.05 Non-domestic rates for the Pavilion to Mar 17; £475.20 replacement battery charges for defibrillators\*; £466.27 BT and £34.35 bank charges.  
Mastercard: £6 card charges; £31.20 new locks\*
- c) Payments made under delegated authority are starred above.
- d) A grant had been made for £250 towards flower troughs in Speldhurst.
- e) Cllr Ellery is investigating the best value for money for the office telephone system and will report back his findings.

**18/010 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr Kerby.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
BT Plc	DD	30.00	Mobile
Unity Trust Pavilion A/C	300237	500.00	Open acct
Tate Fencing Ltd	MT1197	135.05	Posts and dry mix
C Moulton	300238	250.00	Grant: Speldhurst in Flower
Barge Group Ltd	MT1198	3,770.40	Playground repairs
Paul Cheater	MT1199	84.00	Pavilion cleaner
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1200	172.80	Canine Refuse
Langton Life	MT1201	250.00	Magazine Article
KALC	MT1202	72.00	Training
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT1203	488.83	Canine refuse bags
CWCS	MT1204	11.99	Web Hosting
Dave's Computer Repairs	MT1205	225.00	Set up Office 365 etc
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	MT1206	1,941.70	Mowing Groombridge, LGRC
Viking Direct	MT1207	107.92	Stationery
Knockout Print	MT1208	42.00	Cards
Simon Jeffreys	MT1209	37.63	SPC Pavilion
Paul Cheater	MT1210	112.00	Pavilion cleaning
David Buckett	MT1211	411.90	Interim Internal Audit
Initial	DD	109.51	Annual Service
Mr L Cooper	MT1213	24.75	Expenses
C May	MT1214	20.25	Expenses
Kate Harman	MT1215	14.85	Expenses
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT1220	16.00	Meeting Room
GACC	MT1221	10.00	Annual Membership
EDF Energy	DD	906.05	Pavilion electricity
N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1216	26.79	Pension Scheme Contributions
Mr L Cooper	MT1217	640.70	Salary
Kate Harman	MT1218	651.19	Salary
C May	MT1219	1,807.47	Salary

**Total: £12,870.78**

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

**18/011 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE:**

- Groombridge gateway - the Assistant Clerk reported on behalf of the Clerk that a cheque had been received from the driver's insurance company for the replacement of the damaged gateway.
- Cllr Mrs Soyke reported the following issues in Ashurst:
  - The cats' eyes had been replaced near Stone Cross however they had not been renewed on the westernmost bend of the S-bend section of the road which is the most dangerous bit.
  - On the same signpost as the S-Bend warning (to the west of the S-bend) is a 50mph sign which she felt was misleading and dangerous. Every winter there are accidents on that bend owing to cars taking the first corner (travelling eastwards) too fast.
  - A very serious accident had taken place just before Christmas outside the Village Hall and because of damage sustained the village hall sign will need to be re-hung.
  - She had reported the overflowing culvert on the Ashurst Road to the Clerk and it had been unblocked by Highways.
- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that Broom Lane had flooded on several occasions recently due to the high rainfall and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe noted that the road had been closed, presumably to try and resolve the problem.
- It was noted that a new Chairman of the Highways Committee was needed following the resignation of Cllr Turner.

8.00pm Cllr Mrs Podbury left the meeting to attend the Rusthall Parish Council meeting.

**18/012 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) SPC Pavilion Ltd is now established and last year's rates had been paid so the finances were up to date.
- b) The occupation fees for the café in the pavilion had been increased.
- c) The electricity bill for the pavilion is still very high and it was suggested that a smart meter is installed to gain a better understanding of the usage. Cllr Mercieca said that the water heating system should be investigated because this may be a contributing factor to the large bill and to make sure water is only heated when it is needed. Cllr Mrs Lyle asked that the Clerk find out about getting a smart meter installed by EDF.

**18/013 PARISH PLAN:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there was nothing to report.

**18/014 LANGTON GREEN ALLOTMENTS:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that Mr Bodle had agreed to a three-month extension whilst arrangements are made. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said he had received a response from Mr Bodle to a draft proposal and had clarified his questions. He said he had written to Mr Bodle requesting a meeting with suggested dates but had not had a reply. He will continue to chase the matter with some urgency.

**18/015 KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2018:** Following discussion, a suitable candidate was agreed by Councillors and it was **RESOLVED** to put forward the nomination to KALC.

**18/016 NEWSLETTER:** The Chairman asked Councillors for suggestions to be included in the next newsletter and they came up with the following ideas:

- Profile of the two new councillors;
- An update on the speeding campaign including information on Speedwatch, parking problems, photos of recent accidents and the Groombridge gateway
- Bus shelter on Langton Road with the possibility of residents being able to report any damage to SPC.
- Ask for feedback on the website (when it up and running)

- Litter

Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that if councillors had any ideas for content for the newsletter they draft an article and send it to the Clerk.

Cllr Milner said that he had received a request from a resident for more rubbish bins in Speldhurst. It was agreed that when the Environment Working Party carry out their street scene survey they would investigate the need for additional bins.

**18/017 KENT MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN 2013-30:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson and Ellery had both looked at the document and Cllrs Mrs Price and Mercieca volunteered to additionally review it before a response from SPC was agreed.

**18/018 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** There was nothing to report.

**18/019 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had not been a meeting of the Governance Committee since the last Full Council meeting and he had nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price noted her disappointment regarding the Southwood Road application. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the application for Scriventon Farm had been called in. It was noted that alterations were being made to the redevelopment of Holly Villa and the Assistant Clerk confirmed that she had contacted TWBC on behalf of the Planning Committee to enquire about the standard of finish of the houses. It was hoped that the alterations were being made in response to complaints.
- c) **Amenities** – There was nothing to report.
- d) **Air Traffic** – There was nothing to report.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner said that he had been carrying out repairs along with Derek Robinson, following the recent heavy rains.
- f) **KALC** – There was nothing to report.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – Cllr Mrs Price said that Alan Ford had attended the last workshop and bought in samples of ash die-back which had been very informative and interesting. She also said that she had started to prepare an audit of SPC's environmental policy to generate more ideas and move it forward. She was keen to ensure the policy is taken into consideration by councillors when decisions are made and for everyone to be aware of its content. It was suggested that future agendas refer to the Environment Policy and that laminated copies of the policy be placed on the tables at Full Council meetings in an attempt to ensure that decisions made are consistent with the policy. Cllr Milner asked that when the street scene survey is carried out, if possible, could they also consider the health of trees with regards to fungal infections.

**18/020 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017** – there were none.

**18/021 CLERK'S REPORT:** In the absence of the Clerk there was nothing reported.

**18/022 DIARY DATES:**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – Full Council, Ashurst Village Hall

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January** – Planning Committee meeting

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January** - KALC's GDPR conference (Cllrs Barrington-Johnson and Milner attending)

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** – Finance Committee meeting – this may need to be changed due to holidays.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January** - KALC's GDPR conference (Clerk; Assistant Clerk, Cllrs Mrs Lyle and Jeffreys attending)

All meetings are in the office and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

**18/023 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

- Cllr Mrs Price said that funding of £12K had been received for the MUGA in Speldhurst which means the project can start going ahead.

- Cllr Mrs Lyle said that Langton Green Primary School will hear on the 16<sup>th</sup> January if its bid to Aviva for a grant for the toilet facilities has been successful. Cllr Barrington-Johnson reminded the meeting that County Cllr McInroy has expressed a particular interest in this project and indicated he might be able to provide some funding from his member fund, so if the Arriva grant is insufficient the school should make an approach to Cllr McInroy.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman