



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.30PM
IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Woodliffe, Mrs Price, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Podbury, Ellery, Mercieca, Rowe, and Pate

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Jeffreys was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: There were no County or Borough Councillors in attendance. Borough Cllr Jukes had sent his apologies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were four members of the public present – Mrs Marianne Buckley representing the LGVH, Mr Ben Allatt and Mr Martin Russell representing the Langton Green Cricket Club and Mr Steve Aldiss representing LGCSA.

18/211 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.

18/212 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllrs Barrington-Johnson and Milner– both holidays.

18/213 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllrs Mrs Lyle and Woodliffe both said they had an on-going interest in item 18/221c (drainage of LGRG); Cllr Mrs Lyle as a Trustee for LGCSA and Cllr Mrs Woodliffe as a parent of an LG Football Club member. Cllr Mrs Soyke declared an interest in item 18/224 (AMVH representative).

18/214 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

18/215 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **3rd September 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18/216 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that TWBC planners had been working hard on the Local Plan and advised that all residents will soon receive a leaflet on recycling.

18/217 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mrs Marianne Buckley announced that she will be stepping down as SPC representative on the LGCT at the AGM. The Chairman and Councillors thanked Mrs Buckley for all her hard work over the years.

The Chairman of Langton Green Cricket Club, Mr Ben Allatt and Mr Martin Russell spoke about the proposals for pitch drainage on the LGRG. Mr Allatt said that whilst the Cricket Club do not object to the proposals and could see the long-term benefits, he had concerns about the timescales involved. He was not confident that he would have the time to canvass committee members and secure a temporary pitch for them to use for the two seasons they would be unable to use their home ground, all by the deadline. He said an artificial wicket is not an option for adult games and they would need a designated area for the cricket pitch including a six-track playing surface which would enable the league games to be held at LG and could provide a possible revenue stream for the club. He had obtained advice from pitch professionals and KCB who advised that it may take eighteen months or more to get the pitch up to an acceptable standard. This would cost in the region of £25-35K which they currently do not have. He went on to give some background – the cricket club had been there for over 100 years, has over 50 players and has in recent years been quite successful. They do not want to be railroaded into a project which may cause so much disruption that it stops cricket being played on the LGRG as some current members may find alternative teams. He also said that should the project go ahead, the Cricket Club should be part of the Working Group.

Steve Aldiss from LGCSA advised said he was present to answer questions. He added that the Sports Association intended to introduce junior cricket if an artificial wicket was built.

18/218 FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) There had not been a meeting of the Finance Committee since the last Full Council meeting however one was planned for 17th October 2018.
- b) Budget virements: There were none.
- c) Interim payments since the last Full Council meeting: £538.75 BT direct debit; £1,574.52 KCC Highways – final instalment of TRO costs; Veolia £91.08 waste collection; £150.08 transfer to credit card; £82.98 pension contributions and £33.30 bank charges.
Mastercard: £15.14* Misc maintenance; £9.00 bank charges; £56.95 sweeper for pavilion; £17.10* graffiti remover; £12.49* mop; £13.09* petrol; £8.50* grass seed.
- d) Payments made under delegated authority are starred above.
- e) The second half of the precept has been received.

18/219 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Podbury.

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Payee Name	Reference	Amount	Detail
BT PLC	DD	30.00	Mobile
M R Lawrence	MT1403	320.00	Mowing
Knockout Print	MT1404	180.00	Open Meeting Boards
CWCS	MT1405	11.99	Web hosting
BeSure	MT1406	231.02	Call out engineer light
Connick Tree Care	MT1407	2,970.00	Tree Survey
Kate Harman	MT1408	37.80	Expenses
Mr L Cooper	MT1409	24.52	Expenses
RIP Cleaning Services	MT1414	172.80	Canine refuse
BeSure	MT1415	147.00	Pav PIR replacement
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	MT1416	24.00	Meeting room
EDF Energy	DD	750.89	Pav Electricity
Kate Harman	MT1410	653.50	Salary
Mr L Cooper	MT1411	630.03	Salary
C May	MT1412	1,843.71	Salary

N.E.S.T. Pension Scheme	MT1413	66.08	Pension contributions
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Total: £8,093.34

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

18/220 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: Cllr Mrs Podbury said that a meeting of the committee was being arranged and would be held later this month. She also noted that several of the pot holes she had reported in Speldhurst had been filled. The Clerk advised that the 20mph advisory scheme for Langton Green has not been completed. The previous contractor Amey had not installed it before their contract had finished and it now had to be included in the new contractor's schedule.

18/221 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following: -

- a) Pavilion – Anti-social behaviour by seven teenagers had been caught on CCTV – they were recorded jumping on the containers and causing minor damage. The Clerk said that he would report the incident to the PCSO. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that Rusthall had been experiencing some anti-social behaviour.
- b) Formal agreement between SPC and SPC Pavilion Ltd – there was nothing further to report.
- c) Drainage proposal – Cllr Mrs Lyle had circulated a detailed report prior to the meeting. She displayed a plan of the aerial view of the main football area (excluding the Ashurst Place field) of the LGRG which is to be regraded, with a very gentle slope with slight banks around the north side of the pitch to allow the water to drain off quickly. The Sports and Cricket Clubs have agreed the location of their pitches. Cllr Mrs Lyle had put together a list of conditions which she suggested SPC include in their terms for supporting the project in principle. It was agreed that the terms could be adjusted and amended in due course and together with issues such as parking would be addressed by a Working Group. Cllr Rowe asked about the number of children involved and how many came from the Parish. Mr Aldiss said at present there are 550 children on the books, he said that with the expansion of the school inevitably many will now come from outside the Parish. He added that LGCSA would be prepared to contribute towards the annual maintenance. Cllr Mrs Podbury asked about the implications for the café and fete. There was much discussion regarding the funding of a new cricket square and Cllr Ellery said the preferred option should be that the LGCC has a new square.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to support LGCSA in principle in their application to the FA for funding. It was also **RESOLVED** to create a Working Group and **RESOLVED** that the working group report back to Full Council for any major decision-making. It was agreed that the working group would be made up of Cllrs Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe and Barrington-Johnson, two representatives from the Cricket Club and Mr Aldiss representing LGCSA. It was agreed that the Netball and Stoolball Clubs would also be kept informed.

- d) Parking at LG during football – It was **RESOLVED** that this matter would be dealt with by the Working Group as part of the plan.

18/222 PARISH PLAN: there was nothing reported.

18/223 THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY: The Clerk advised Councillors that all five trees had been accounted for. It was **RESOLVED** to request SPC go on the reserve list should one become available.

18/224 ASHURST MCDERMOTT VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE: It was **RESOLVED** to reappoint Cllr Mrs Soyke as the representative on the Ashurst McDermott Village Trust.

18/225 LANGTON GREEN CHARITABLE TRUST: The Clerk advised that the Trust intended to change its charitable status to a CIO. They are currently liaising with solicitors regarding the legalities involved. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys explained how the leases operate and should the Trust become insolvent then SPC had the right of re-entry.

18/226 AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION: There was some discussion about why aircraft noise was not included in the consultation. Cllr Mrs Podbury explained that it was not something TWBC could directly influence or change. Cllr Mrs Price queried the impact of extra traffic on any proposed growth and said that she would like to see safe cycle lanes installed in the parish and an air quality survey carried out on the Langton Road. It was **RESOLVED** that the Environment Working Group be asked to put together a response on behalf of SPC to be put to Full Council in November. Cllr Pate agreed to join the Environment Working Group.

18/227 KALC COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME 2019 – It was **RESOLVED** that this scheme would be adopted every year going forward without the need for prior Full Council agreement.

18/228 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Barrington-Johnson had circulated his Chairman's report.

18/229 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – There had not been a meeting since the last Full Council and there was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr Mrs Price said that she had nothing to report.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury advised that there had not been a meeting of the Amenities Committee since the last Full Council meeting and there was nothing to report. The next meeting is on the 29th October 2018. She had been through the tree report and noted that 97 trees need attention; 2 need to be felled; 57 of the trees need work to be carried out within the next 6 months. She suggested asking the consultants for a map showing the trees so that work could be prioritised.
- d) **Air Traffic** – There was nothing to report.
- e) **Environment Working Group (EWG)** – Cllr Mrs Price said the date of the next walk clashes with the date of the Speldhurst fireworks however it was hoped the timings of the two events would not prevent residents attending both. Ashurst Village Hall had kindly let SPC use it for free for tea and cakes after the walk which is on Sunday 4th November at 2pm. She went on to say that the EWG will draw up a procedural note on how SPC maintains its spaces in liaison with the Clerk to be put to Full Council.
- f) **Footpaths** – In the absence of Cllr Milner, there was nothing to report. Cllr Mrs Soyke said that there was still urgent work needed on stile in Ashurst. The Clerk is to report this matter to Cllr Milner on his return who could report it to KCC.
- g) **KALC** – A report had been circulated from Cllr Barrington-Johnson.
- h) **Website Working Group (WWG)** – The Clerk reported that the existing website is no longer responding and that the WWG would make progressing the new website a priority.

18/230 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3rd September 2018 – There were none.

18/231 CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk reported that Trevor Parker is in hospital following a fall and is now stable and in a cottage hospital. Paul Harvey has been replaced as Manager of Speldhurst VH by Polly Banbridge.

The Clerk asked Councillors where they would like the SPC Christmas Drinks held after Full Council on 3rd December. It was agreed they would be held at the Crown in Groombridge and the Clerk would speak to the Landlord to make sure adequate space was available and reserved.

Open Meeting – the PCSO would be giving a short talk. He went on to say that it would be a good opportunity for the new Councillors to meet the public and the areas for discussion could be the parish walk, the vacancy on the Parish Council, EWG and Highways 20mph. He asked that Councillors arrive at 7.15pm to help put out chairs.

18/232 DIARY DATES:

Monday 1st – Full Council Meeting – Palmer Room, LGVH

Tuesday 2nd – Planning Meeting

Monday 8th – Open Meeting LGVH Main Hall 7.30pm for 8pm start

Monday 15th – JTB Meeting TWBC 6.30pm

Langton Road from The Hare to Farnham Lane to be resurfaced 8pm-6am 5 nights

Tuesday 16th – Local Plan Meeting TWBC 10am

Wednesday 17th – Finance Meeting

Thursday 18th – KALC Finance Conference, Ditton 9am (Clerk attending)

Monday 29th – Amenities Meeting

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

18/233 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Ellery has sent suggested locations for deer signs on Barden Road to the Clerk. He enquired whether one could be located at the bottom of Barden Hill and it was agreed the Clerk would speak to the Clerk at Bidborough about positioning one near the top.

Cllr Pate said that Speldhurst Post Office was still an issue. The Clerk advised that it had not been added to the agenda because there were no new matters for discussion or that required a decision. It was noted that a valuation had been done on the shop, and that a Facebook page has been set up. It was confirmed that it would be on the November agenda.

Cllr Mrs Woodliffe asked if anything had been done about recycling cardboard and plastic in LGRG. Clerk to follow up.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Chairman