



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 6th AUGUST 2012 at 7.30pm
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Parker, Owen, Pendleton, Turner and Woodward

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs M Flemington – Assistant Clerk

County Councillor John Davies

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

12/261 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:

Cllr Woodward – 12/267iii) – personal and prejudicial – a Director of B4RS Ltd

Cllr Owen – 12/267vi) – personal – children attend LG Primary school

Cllr Milner – 12/267iv) – personal and prejudicial – member of DCC St Mary's Church, Speldhurst

Cllr Langridge 12/267v) – personal and prejudicial – Chairman of Friends of All Saints' Church, LG

Cllr Mrs Soyke 12/267vi) – personal – grandchildren at LG Primary school

12/262 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

12/263 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2012, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed as a true record.

12/264 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: County Councillor John Davies had recently been to Langton Green teen play area and the noted that gyrospiral is broken. The Clerk confirmed that it is to be repaired on 9th August.

He reported that through savings made by KCC £6million was being released for road re-surfacing and Speldhurst Hill will be done at a cost of £77,000.

Borough Councillor Julia Soyke reported that she is on the TWBC Tourism Working Party which is discussing the future of the Tourist Information Centre in Tunbridge Wells amongst other things. She would be interested in views from Parish Councillors. Cllrs did mention the need to solve the problem of the cinema site which was a blight on the landscape.

12/265 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:

Sana Smith-Tilley of Speldhurst asked what the outcome was of the meeting with TWBC on 18th July regarding LNH, could she have a copy of the notes of the meeting and what is the format and decision making process for the Extraordinary meeting to be held on 13th August. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that the notes of the meeting will be put on the website and that a decision will be made tonight whether to hold the meeting on 13th August. The Clerk advised that if the meeting is to go ahead the notice will go on the notice boards and website on 7th August.

Nick Critchlow of Speldhurst said he is concerned about the dangerous bend at the junction of Barden Road and Furzefield Avenue and that several of the Parish Council road safety signs are overgrown. He mentioned other issues and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked him to put his points in an email to the Clerk.

12/266 NEW CODE OF CONDUCT:

- i) The new Code of Conduct for Kent has been circulated and has been adopted by TWBC. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys proposed that the Kent Code be adopted and this was **AGREED**, subject to amendment of the wording in the document from Dover to Tunbridge Wells.
- ii) The Localism Act 2011 states that Councillors' disclosable pecuniary interests should be published and a link will be established on the Parish Council website to the TWBC website where all Cllrs interests will be displayed in a template form without signatures.

The Clerk advised that Speldhurst Parish Council had a duty to notify residents that the Code of Conduct has been adopted. **Notices will be put on the notice Boards and the Website. Cllr Langridge will produce an appropriate short piece for the village magazines.**

12/267 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys

- i) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that a Committee Meeting was held on 30th July and the Minutes have been circulated to all Members.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there had not been any email decisions in the last month.
- iii) Broadband – Cllr Woodward explained that now B4RS Ltd has been established they are seeking a grant of £2,000 to cover costs that are arising. Cllr Woodward explained that the company would need funds to cover costs. Councillors discussed the issue at great length and most considered that a monthly statement of expenditure and a report was the minimum expected. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared that her husband was now Company Secretary of B4RS Ltd and she and Cllr Woodward left the room. Cllr Milner took the chair. There was further discussion and Cllrs recognised the hard work that members of the BBWG had put in and that some had incurred personal expense to-date, however more details were required and therefore a reduced figure was proposed by Cllr Owen with caveats. Cllr Parker counter proposed that the full amount be granted. Cllrs **AGREED** by a vote of 10 (with one abstention) that an initial grant of £1,000 would be made subject to submission of a proper budget detailing estimated figures and a monthly statement of accounts to the Finance Committee. Any further funding would be dependent on approaching the other Councils involved to see if they would contribute towards the running costs. Cllr Woodward and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys returned to hear the decision. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys resumed as chairman.
- iv) St Mary's Church, Speldhurst – Adrian Dawes represented the church and spoke about the 2006 Quinquennial report which advised that repair work to the wall, parts of the lych gate and the uneven steps was needed. The 2011 report urged that the work be carried out as soon as possible. He said that the structure of the wall was sound but there was some movement which needed to be monitored. He spoke of the history of the wall's construction and the benefit it had conferred on the community. A detailed report including the accounts had been submitted prior to the meeting.

Cllrs asked a number of questions which included the timing of the work (whether it could be spread over two years), and whether they had approached other sources. He replied that the work was now quite urgent and delaying would incur additional costs and that other bodies skilled in renovation of heritage assets were difficult to find.. The clerk said that he had arranged a meeting with a Heritage officer at TWBC to attend the site on Friday at 10am and he asked that

the church wait for the Parish Council to make a decision in September after hearing from TWBC. Cllrs advised Mr Dawes that in principle they would support the project with a figure to be determined in September.

- v) All Saints Church, Langton Green – The application was considered by Cllrs to be lacking in detail and it was noted that work on the new heating system would not start till spring 2013. **The Clerk was asked to write asking for full submission** (in time for the budget process in October).
- vi) Langton Green Primary School – further quotes had not been received in time for the meeting because of illness. John Davies said he would be happy to support the project if asked. Cllr Mrs Horne thought the PTA should be raising funds for the project. Cllrs agreed to support the project in principle but decided to delay a decision till the September meeting.

12/268 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Hemming

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Additional Payments in July not listed</u>			
EDF	DD	140.00	Electricity
The two direct debits below were not taken in July			
KCC (KCS)	DD	(188.26)	Photocopier
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	(53.00)	Non-Domestic Rates
<u>Payments in August</u>			
Langton Green Charitable Trust	001	26.25	Meeting Room Hire
Speldhurst Village Hall	002	104.09	Meeting Room Hire
RIP Cleaning Services	003	216.00	Dog bin emptying
Langton Green Charitable Trust	004	12.53	Office electricity
Unipar Services	005	138.00	Battery for Speedwatch
M R Lawrence	006	320.00	Mowing and Strimming
Premiere Digital	007	573.00	Newsletters and signs
Ashurst McDermott Hall Trust	008	55.00	Meeting Room Hire
Casement Signs & Graphics	009	171.54	Council Office road sign
Viking Direct	010	77.98	Stationery
Mr L Cooper	011	100.00	Groundsman's Duties
C May	012	15.00	Cleaning expenses
HMRC	013	699.68	Tax & NI
Mr C Woodward	014	100.00	Broadband expenses
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	106.00	Non-domestic rates
KCC (KCS)	DD	2,430.46	LG mowing and playground
KCC (KCS)	DD	633.37	Groombridge mowing
KCC (KCS)	DD	188.26	Photocopier
Treadwell Electrical	MT	1,263.90	Repairs – to be reclaimed
L Dollimore	MT	143.01	Broadband expenses
C May	MT	1,355.57	Salary
C May	MT	16.65	Expenses
M Flemington	MT	623.41	Salary
M Flemington	MT	42.40	Expenses
Total payments		£9,477.10	

12/269 HIGHWAYS REPORT: Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that further Speedwatch training will be held in October with an article requesting volunteers in the village magazines prior to then. She referred to the Community Safety Report and details on traffic collisions resulting in death or serious injury and reported that from September the yellow zig-zag lines outside schools will be enforceable.

Cllr Pendleton reported that there was another crash on Groombridge Hill on 4th August.

12/270 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND:

- i) The new Surrender document for the overflow car park has been received from the Solicitors. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Cllr Milner be authorised as signatories.
- ii) Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that there is nothing further to report at present regarding the pavilion.
- iii) Cllr Milner reported that the Amenities Committee had discussed the matter of an email system of approval for the hiring of LGRG for individual events at the last Committee meeting. There was further discussion and it was **AGREED** that the Amenities Committee deal with any requests by email and decide on details of any charge and/or special conditions on a case by case basis. The committee would charge hirers who were making a profit and they would ensure that users were aware of the need to clear any litter. Any events would require their own insurance.

12/271 FIRST AID: The Clerk reported that prices for a First Aid Course are being established and will be reported at the next meeting. Rusthall Parish Council are holding a meeting with the SE Coast Ambulance Service on 17th September about defibrillators. **Cllr Mrs Hull offered to attend.**

12/272 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that Cllr Milner had attended Langton Green and Speldhurst Schools with the Clerk and Peter Blackwell to present the Diamond Jubilee Awards for Olympic Spirit. Cllr Milner gave a brief report saying that both presentations had been very well received.

12/273 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) Governance – Cllr Pendleton reported that a Committee meeting was held on 17th July and the Minutes have been circulated to all Members.
- ii) Planning – Cllr Langridge reported that the application on the Old Saw Mill, Speldhurst has been refused by TWBC and that there are several informal pre-application enquiries at present.
- iii) Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that a Committee Meeting was held on 17th July and the Minutes have been circulated to all Members. Cllr Milner advised that there are three dead trees by the Container which will need replacement.
- iv) Broadband – Cllr Woodward asked for an additional item to be on the Agenda for the proposed Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on 13th August to discuss the way forward for the DEFRA funding bid.
- v) Footpaths – Cllr Milner reported on maintenance and repair work that has been taking place recently. He thanked Nick Robinson of Kent High Weald Partnership for his leadership and volunteers who assisted the Parish Council's own volunteers to replace 40m of boardwalk in Shadwell Wood on 18th July.
- vi) KALC – Cllr Mrs Hull referred to the KALC Newsletter July 2012 and said that Cllr Woodward has agreed to attend the Area Committee meeting on 29th August.
- vii) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Mrs Jeffreys explained the proposal is to hold an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 13th August and to make a decision at this meeting. This was **AGREED.**
- viii) Neighbourhood Planning Working Group – An initial meeting of the Working Group is to be held on 9th August. Cllr Mrs Hull proposed that Cllr Turner take her place on the Working Group and this was **AGREED.**
- ix) Environment Working Group – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that she is working on the content for the website Environment page.

12/274 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 2nd JULY 2012:

Cllr Mrs Podbury requested that TWBC are contacted regarding the problem of parking on pavements in Speldhurst.

Cllr Owen asked about the reports from the recipients of the Diamond Jubilee grants. The Clerk reported that some but not all have been received and Cllrs would receive a full report in due course.

12/275 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Letter dated 9th July from South East Water confirming that the temporary hose pipe ban has been lifted for all customers

2. Letter dated 11th July from DisabledGo in connection with the Tunbridge Wells access guide
3. Email dated 12th July from NHS Kent and Medway regarding improved NHS support for children's emotional health problems
4. Press release email dated 13th July from the Advisory Panel regarding the Tunbridge Wells Town Vision
5. Hospice in the Weald News Summer 2012
6. KALC Newsletter July 2012
7. Letter from KCC Public Rights of Way Officer with the Definitive Map Modification Order 2012 for public footpath WT82
8. Letter dated 17th July from KCC Public Rights of Way Officer regarding updating the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way
9. Email dated 20th July from Kent Police advising that Chief Inspector Nicola Faulconbridge has taken over from Chief Inspector John Bumpus as District Commander for Tunbridge Wells and would like to attend a Parish Council meeting – **The Clerk to email with dates of Full Council meetings and the October Open Meeting and April APA and invite the new Chief Inspector to attend a meeting.**
10. Email dated 21st July from Jean Quarmby regarding vegetation encroaching on footpaths – **The Clerk to reply by email.**
11. Email dated 24th July from TWBC Tree Officer with information and a poster on the Asian longhorn beetle outbreak. The poster is displayed on the notice boards
12. Email dated 25th July from Richard Holliday objecting to being asked through the Newsletter to keep the footpath abutting his boundary clear of vegetation – **The Clerk to reply by email.**
13. Information from University of Kent re Short Courses 2012-2013 at Tonbridge
14. CPRE Countryside Voice Summer 2012
15. Letter dated 3 Aug from Mole Valley District Council re Mr Marcus Slegg/ Finger Post Sign Repairs/Replacements – Crime detection request
16. Email dated 6 Aug from East Sussex CC re Waste and Minerals Plan
17. Email dated 3 Aug from KALC re KCC proposals to introduce a Kent Lane Rental Scheme – introducing charges at the busiest locations at traffic sensitive times for those undertaking works on the highway, to encourage them to carry out their works in a less disruptive manner. Consultation closes on Sept 17
18. Email from Mr Mark Rees dated 3 Aug regarding frequent large and acrid-smelling bonfires on Peacocks Farm on boundary of Rusthall. Neighbours in both Parishes are unhappy. **The Clerk to advise TWBC Environmental Health and ask Rusthall Parish Council to do the same.**
19. Letter dated Aug from Nat West explaining the recent computer meltdown and what they are doing to put it right!

12/278 DIARY DATES:

1. Thursday 9th August – Neighbourhood Planning Working Group Meeting – Parish Council Office – **4.00pm**
2. Monday 13th August – Extraordinary Full Council Meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall
3. Thursday 16th August – Highways Committee Meeting – venue to be confirmed
4. Tuesday 21st August – Planning Committee Meeting – Parish Council Office
5. Friday 24th August – Meeting with Southern Water re the wastewater treatment works and traffic issues – **11.00am**
6. Monday 3rd September – **Full Council Meeting** – Committee Room, Speldhurst Village Hall

12/279 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Langridge advised that there are a lot of forthcoming changes in TWBC Planning Department.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys proposed that the Newsletter be changed to January and July distribution.

The Clerk advised that the Langton Green Village sign would be refurbished in October.

Cllr Mrs Soyke said that a lot of 30mph signs are obscured by overgrown vegetation. **Councillors to advise the Clerk of any specific signs that need clearing.**

Cllr Mrs Podbury said there are two overgrown hedges Stockland Green Road/Etherington Hill – she will establish the landowners.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.57pm

CHAIRMAN