



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011 at 7.30pm  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman) Mrs Hull, Mrs Soyke, Brown, Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Parker, Ringrose, Owen and Woodward

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

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr Mrs Podbury (illness) and Cllr Pendleton (prior engagement)  
County Cllr John Davies and Borough Cllr David Jukes

**11/215 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:**

There were none.

**11/216 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:**

Cllr Mrs Hull and Cllr Brown have been spoken to by residents about Local Needs Housing.

**11/217 MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.

**11/218 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:**

The meeting was adjourned.

Mr Rickard representing the owner of Groombridge Place reported their concerns that walkers are not keeping to the footpaths on Groombridge Place land and are putting up signs stating that it is the walkers' right to have more paths opened up within the Estate. The major part of the problem is within Withyham Parish Council but they are asking for Speldhurst Parish Council's support within the area that does fall within its Parish. Cllr Ringrose suggested that a reminder of the need to keep to public footpaths and keep dogs under control be printed on the proposed Parish footpaths map.

Sana Smith-Tilley said she had not been aware of the Local Needs Housing (LNH) Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November. The Clerk said that it was only held to agree the format and wording of the letters to be sent out seeking clarification in writing on certain issues.

Sana Smith-Tilley asked if the results of the LNH Consultation Day will be discussed at this meeting. Cllr Woodward said that the informal analysis carried out by the LNH Committee will be discussed but that the formal analysis is awaited from English Rural Housing Association (ERHA).

Sana Smith-Tilley asked about letters and emails sent in addition to comments at the Consultation Day. The Clerk confirmed that all these have been circulated to all Councillors and ERHA.

Philip Tew asked if the ERHA results will be put on SPC Website. No decision was taken on this but it will be considered at the next LNH Committee meeting.

A resident said that there was an article in the Daily Telegraph regarding TWBC opposing development on green field sites. He will send a copy to the Clerk.

#### 11/219 LOCAL NEEDS HOUSING:

- i) Cllr Woodward referred to his written report and the Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November.
- ii) Cllr Woodward reported on the Consultation Day. 128 comments forms were issued at the event. Where comments were negative the concern stated most frequently expressed was building on green belt land. Other concerns expressed were; TWBC motives, the process of making decisions, highways safety, environmental and social impact, the site and future development as a result of the scheme. The question of a referendum will not be considered further until the full results are available from ERHA and replies to the letters sent following the Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November have been received. These letters will be attached to the minutes of the LNH Committee meeting and available to the public.  
Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said she did not expect a meeting this year and it would probably be in January with a possible decision by Full Council in February.  
There was discussion on making Cllr Woodward's rough figures of the Consultation Event available to the public.  
Cllr Mrs Hull stated that only four people from Langton Green attended the Consultation Day.

#### 11/220 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Parker

- i) Cllr Parker reported that there has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- ii) Cllr Parker reported that there had been six email decisions by the Finance Committee. A donation of £55 to the mayor's Christmas Toy Appeal was approved. Costs of £70 for the repair of the stone wall in Peshurst Road, Speldhurst and £40 for additional strimming at Ashurst were approved. The cost of £340 for publication of the Newsletter was approved. Expenditure of up to £250 was approved for Cllr Woodward and Rob Lyle to attend the launch of B4RN Superfast Broadband project. The Clerk's overtime of 24.75 hours was approved.
- iii) After discussion it was **AGREED** to purchase 50 White Boxes @ £20 each to use for the Broadband project.
- iv) It was **AGREED** to accept KCC Landscape Services quotations totalling £3,746.63 for grounds maintenance for 2012/2013 for Langton Green Recreation Ground and Groombridge.
- v) It was **AGREED** to accept KCC Landscape Services quotation of £1,814.86 for safety inspections on the play equipment at Langton Green Recreation Ground for 2012/2013.
- vi) The Parish Council does not have the power to consider the grant request from Joshua Daniells because it is for the benefit of only one person. **The Clerk to advise.**
- vii) The grant request from Speldhurst Village Hall Foundation (SVHF) did not include enough detail or any quotations and Councillors questioned whether SVHF have considered other options. **The Clerk to write requesting more detail.**
- viii) There has been no further request or information from Speldhurst Recreation Ground Committee in respect of the proposed improvements to Speldhurst Childrens' Playground. This item was deferred till January.

#### 11/221 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Brown

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
Rymans	247	89.04	Stationery
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	248	78.00	SLCC Meeting
M R Lawrence	249	160.00	Mowing
Mr C Woodward	250	28.40	Expenses
KALC	251	72.00	Cllr Workshop
KCC (KCS)	252	2,114.40	Playground check
Mr L Cooper	253	100.00	Nov LGRG
Mr N Burgess	254	85.06	SP website
BT PLC	255	30.00	Mobile
Mrs J Podbury	256	22.50	Expenses
The Mayor's Charity Account	257	55.00	Toy Appeal
Ashurst McD Hall Trust	258	6,600.00	Grant re pavilion roof
KALC	259	20.00	KALC AGM
Mr A Ashby	260	70.00	Wall repair

Premiere Digital	261	180.00	Newsletter design
Premiere Digital	262	168.00	Office graphic
TWBC	263	289.76	Election costs
Lantec Systems	264	800.00	Office computer
HMRC	265	703.64	NI & Tax
M Flemington	266	400.95	Salary
M Flemington	267	83.32	Expenses
C May	268	1,344.49	Salary
C May	270	278.80	Expenses
C May	271	2,455.58	Office furniture
C May	272	48.98	Office furniture
C May	273	22.32	Office furniture
C May	274	57.90	Office furniture
C May	275	147.98	Office furniture
		<u>£16,506.12</u>	

**11/222 HIGHWAYS REPORT:**

The meeting with KCC Cabinet member Bryan Sweetland and KHS Director John Burr was organised by KCC member John Davies on behalf of both parties on 2nd December. Issues were raised that have been outstanding for too long – double yellow lines in Speldhurst and the delay in any progress on the speed limit reduction on the A264 & B2110 from 60mph to 50mph. Other frustrating issues of were raised and it was hoped that progress would be achieved by the intervention of both attendees.

The issue of budget cuts and the fact that no improvements would be made unless there was accident statistics to back up a request was discussed. It was agreed that the message needs to be put across by KHS and that it should not be left to Parish Councils to inform residents of policy.

Both Cllr Sweetland and Mr Burr have agreed to visit and inspect Stone Cross in the New Year

**2249 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE:**

- i) The Parish Council Office is now largely complete and open. Opening hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9.30am – 1.00pm, Wednesdays 2pm – 5pm and closed all day Thursdays.
- ii) It is **AGREED** that the decision on the siting of the Notice Board will be made by Cllr Mrs Jeffreys, Cllr Mrs Soyke and the Clerk.

The Clerk was to be on holiday on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Flemington was unavailable for the 9<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Soyke, Brown and Langridge would man the office from 9.30am till 1pm.

The bicycle racks were still to be discussed with the Trustees.

**11/223 THE LOCALISM ACT:**

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot be submitted yet, but the intention to prepare one should be notified to TWBC. Cllr Woodward and Cllr Mrs Podbury will liaise about contacting TWBC Planning and thereafter contact will be through the Clerk.

**11/224 DIAMOND JUBILEE / OLYMPIC EVENTS AND GRANTS:**

It was **AGREED** to prepare a further article for inclusion in Village Magazines, on the Notice Boards and the Website that would include all the regulations for applying for a grant.

**11/225 LOCAL SCHOOLS:**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys and Cllr Brown are meeting the Head Teacher at Langton Green Primary School on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to start discussions about an environmental project involving Langton Green and Speldhurst Schools and the Parish Council.

**11/226 LGRG SPORTS PAVILION:**

There was nothing to report.

**11/227 BROADBAND:**

Cllr Woodward referred to his written report and advised that the next stages in the project are:

- Decision on what SPC wants to achieve and how it can be delivered in the Parish.
- Responding to funding initiatives for the outstanding 10% of rural areas.
- Partnering with other local Parishes.

- Use of the white boxes.
- Use of an electronic forum for public engagement.

**11/228 SIGNS ON COUNCIL LAND POLICY:**

It was **AGREED** to adopt the new Policy for signs on which had been amended to include email authorisation.

**11/229 GRANT GUIDELINES:**

The Guidelines have been updated to include the address and contact details for the new Parish Office. It was **AGREED** that they be adopted.

**11/230 FURZEFIELD AVENUE:**

It was **AGREED** to install bollards at the junction of Barden Road and Furzefield Avenue to stop vehicles driving on the grass. It was suggested that 3-4 should be necessary at a cost of £56 per post. **The Clerk to contact Tate Fencing.**

**11/231 UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINE:**

It was **AGREED** to support the Uckfield Railway Line proposals. **The Clerk to write in support.**

**11/232 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that she was unable to attend the last Parish Chairmen's Meeting and is waiting for the minutes from TWBC.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys thanked Councillors who had attended Remembrance Services and laid the wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council.

**11/233 COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Governance Committee – In Cllr Pendleton's absence Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that there has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- Planning – In Cllr Mrs Podbury's absence her written report was referred to.
- Amenities – Cllr Milner reported that there has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- Footpaths – Cllr Milner referred to his written report.
- KALC – Cllr Brown referred to his written report on the KALC AGM. He also advised that Tunbridge Wells is the safest borough in the country in terms of crime statistics.
- Environment – Cllr Brown reported that there has been no further Committee meeting but that the Committee are working on the Green Policy Statement.

**11/234 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2011:**

11/193 – **The Clerk will ask Len Cooper to clear the path by Langton Green Recreation Ground.**

11/196 - **The Clerk will investigate the possibility of the light on Groombridge Green being converted to solar.**

11/204 - Cllr Mrs Jeffreys asked if there were any other suggestions for a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in April. Cllr Langridge suggested Colin Campbell who is the BBC Home Affairs Correspondent and lives in Langton Green. **Cllr Langridge to notify the Clerk who will ask him if he would be willing to speak at the APM on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.**

11/211 - The Clerk reported that he has received a reply from Town and Country Housing Association stating that they are looking further into the provision of off-road parking for their tenants in Northfields, Southfields and St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst.

The Application to the Big Tree Fund and the Parish Footpath Map are both ongoing.

**11/235 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- Letter dated 5th November from Mr Michael Bright of Stonewall Park Road regarding a reply he has received from Mr Burr of KHS and he has referred it to GC MP and Paul Carter KCC – regarding convex mirrors.
- Letter dated 9th November from Alan Legg TWBC launching "Heritage Partnership Projects" (this is the partnership that helped with the islands at The Green)
- "Kent Voice" CPRE Autumn 2011 magazine
- Letter dated 9th November from The Mayor regarding the Quiz Night to be held at the Assembly Hall on Saturday 21st January 2012
- Letter from BBC Children in Need asking what will you do for them this year - Including a fund raising pack and giro credit form. The Parish Council will only donate to local charities that specifically help residents of the Parish.
- Email dated 11th November from RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd re safety surfacing for parks and play areas.
- "Countryside Voice" CPRE Winter 2011 magazine. Given to Cllr Mrs Hull
- Letter dated 22nd November from Lord Lieutenant of Kent addressed to the Parish Chairman regarding his annual civic service to be held at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 6th March 2012.

- ix) Letter from KHS regarding Highways & Transportation Tracker Survey – 2011 – passed to Highways committee and completed and sent back
- x) Email from Rachel Howson regarding contact details for the temporary PCSO
- xi) Letter dated 21st November from TWBC acknowledging receipt of our Parish Precept for 2012-13
- xii) Letter from BBC inviting us to join “Things To Do” – please request further details
- xiii) Letter dated 17th November from Town & Country Housing regarding Parking in Speldhurst – a full reply will be sent in due course.
- xiv) Circular from West Kent Mediation – it deals with all sorts of problems and is a free confidential and impartial mediation service
- xv) Copy of an email from Mr Wilson dated 21st November to the builders regarding uneven public pavement outside “The Langtons” on Speldhurst Road – he has tripped while running
- xvi) Circular from ACRK regarding volunteers required to support outreach work in Kent and Medway’s villages and towns.
- xvii) Email dated 21st November from KCC Climate Change who are investigating options that will help community groups connect with local students looking for work experience
- xviii) Email from TWBC regarding the criteria and application forms for the grant scheme
- xix) Letter from Open Spaces dated 28th Nov regarding new threats to green spaces – requesting a donation. The Parish Council will only donate to local charities that specifically help residents of the Parish.
- xx) Letter from Groombridge Place dated 30th November regarding footpaths crossing their land. Walkers are putting up posters trying to create new “rights of way”.
- xxi) Letter from Woodland Trust requesting donations. The Parish Council will only donate to local charities that specifically help residents of the Parish.
- xxii) Letter dated 1st Dec from KCC on consultation of household waste recycling centre service. Passed to Environment Committee

**11/236 DIARY DATES:**

Wednesday 7th – Internal Auditor 10am  
Friday 9th – Clerk holiday  
Monday 12th – Clerk holiday  
Tuesday 13th – Planning meeting – LGVH Committee Room  
Friday 16th – 6pm – 8pm **Opening Ceremony of Office and Hall extension**  
Monday/Tuesday 26th/27th holiday  
Monday 2nd January 2012 – holiday  
Monday 9th Jan – **Full Council Meeting** – Ashurst Main Hall

**11/237 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys thanked everyone for all their hard work during this very busy year.

Cllr Langridge advised that Newsletters are ready for distribution.

Cllr Langridge reported that a Traffic Warden was in attendance in Langton Green recently and advised that there will now be penalties for double-parking in the lay-by outside the shops.

Cllr Langridge advised that the Langton Green shops are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Langridge reported that a resident has complained to him about parking at LGRG on Saturday mornings when football is taking place. **The Clerk will ask Trustees whether they are able to open the additional car park on Saturday mornings.**

Cllr Mrs Soyke thanked Cllr Mrs Jeffreys for the very good job she is doing as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Milner reported that the dangerous bend sign on Barden Road near Barden Mill is missing. **Cllr Langridge to investigate**

Cllr Brown said he was sorry that no-one was able to attend the KALC Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November – he and Cllr Mrs Hull had attended the Local Needs Housing Committee meeting.

Cllr Brown advised that the number now to ring for non-999 calls to Kent Police is 101 from any area and any phone.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.23pm

DRAFT