



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2015 at 7.30pm
IN THE ELLIS ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Hull, Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Soyke (arrived 7.40pm), Milner and Parker

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were three members of the public present: Mr M Tunnell and Mr M Russell from Langton Green Cricket Club (LGCC) and Mr G Mercieca.

15/217 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.

15/218 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Podbury (unwell), Allen, Turner and Woodward (prior engagement). KCC Cllr Davies (prior engagement)

15/219 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Cllr Barrington-Johnson disclosed an interest in minute item 15/230 c). He is a member of the Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) Committee.

15/220 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: There were none.

15/221 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **7th September 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on **21st September 2015** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/222 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR: Mr Mercieca left the room for the duration of the discussion and decision. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint George Mercieca as a Councillor; he returned to join the meeting and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. He then took his place on the Council.

15/223 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: There were no Councillors present to report.

15/224 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Mr Tunnell and Mr Russell were present to discuss storage issues of the LGCC. It was agreed to defer this session until the issue was discussed under 15/230 c)

15/225 AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL RETURN: It was **RESOLVED** that the Annual Return be amended in line with the external auditor's recommendation and signed. The Clerk will make the public notice advising that the accounts are ready for inspection.

15/226 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Clerk for Cllr Mrs Soyke

- a) A Committee meeting was held on 28th September and the minutes have been circulated. The next Committee meeting is on 19th October with the primary issue being a recommendation of the precept for 2016-17.
- b) There has been one budget virement since the last meeting; a transfer of £2,000 from the contingency account to the capital grant (churches) account for the grant awarded at the meeting on 7th September.
- c) There have been four interim payments since the last meeting; £350 to Green Parrot Studio re grant towards the presentation case, £2,514 to Lake Market Research (refer minutes of ex Full Council on 21st September), and two payments on the pre-paid credit card; £10.20 for petrol and £51.15 for refreshments for the Open Evening.
- d) The payments for £10.20 and £51.15 were authorised under the Clerk's delegated authority; the payment to SLCC for £125 was authorised under the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's delegated authority.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Soyke attends the Finance Conference at a cost of £60.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to grant an additional grant of up to £65.61 to Speldhurst Frolic towards the cost of the presentation case for the quilt.
- g) The Clerk confirmed that the Finance Committee had agreed to open a new bank account and then the funds from CCLA would be transferred and the account closed.

15/227 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Lyle

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
<u>Notification of additional payments in September</u>			
The Green Parrot Studio	MT636	350.00	Grant re case for quilt
Lake Market Research	MT637	2,514.00	
<u>Payment made by ALTO pre-paid card</u>			
Sainsbury's	AO72	10.20	*Petrol
Sainsbury's	AO74	51.15	*Refreshments for Open Meeting
<u>To authorise the payment of invoices as listed</u>			
BT PLC	DD	33.00	Mobile
SLCC	201	125.00	Clerk's CiCA training
Victim Support	202	250.00	Grant
Ashurst McD Hall Trust	MT638	24.00	Room hire
TWBC	MT639	576.61	Election contribution
PKF Littlejohn LLP	MT640	480.00	Audit fees
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT641	488.83	Canine refuse bags
Greenbarnes Ltd	MT642	11.12	Delivery charge
LGCT	MT643	12.00	Room hire
Mr L Cooper	MT644	404.00	Groundsman's duties
C May	MT645	1,467.20	Salary
C May	MT646	42.84	Expenses
M Flemington	MT647	700.48	Salary
M Flemington	MT648	54.90	Expenses
HMRC	MT649	767.74	Tax & NI
PCC of Speldhurst, Ashurst & Gr	MT650	2,000.00	Grant towards clock maintenance
M R Lawrence	MT651	320.00	Mowing services
RIP Cleaning Services	MT652	172.80	Canine Refuse Collection
EDF Energy	DD	182.78	Pavilion electricity
TWBC	DD	56.00	Non Domestic Rates
KCC (KCS)	DD	286.92	Photocopier

Total payments **£ 8,456.22**

*Payment made under the Clerk's delegated authority

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

15/228 HIGHWAYS: A Committee was meeting held on 10th September the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Milner summarised the salient points and confirmed that he and the Clerk will be attending a KCC Highways Conference on 9th November. Cllr Mrs Soyke suggested that it could be useful if a member of the Highways Committee attended the TWBC JTB meeting on 19th October which would be discussing 20mph. It was noted this coincided with the Finance Committee meeting on the same evening and a later start may be considered.

15/229 VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT CLERK: No responses had been received from the advertisement in the Village magazines but it was considered too early to make a decision whether to widen the search. It was agreed to delegate the decision on whether to advertise in the local newspapers to the Finance Committee which meets on 19th October. The Clerk will send the advertisement to the schools for circulation to parents.

15/230 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):

- a) The Clerk confirmed that planning permission has been granted for the revised pavilion application. The anticipated start date is early November.
The Chairman invited Mr Tunnell, Chairman of the LGCC to address the meeting. Mr Tunnell confirmed the problems the LGCC faced, which he had outlined in his email dated 12th September, because of the lack of storage facilities for any equipment in the new building. He understood that during the building of the new pavilion that all equipment will be housed in containers within the site boundary but the problem was what happens when it is finished.
There was much discussion by Cllrs on the issue and concern at the urgency of the matter, which they felt could have been avoided had the matter been brought to their attention earlier when the design of the building was decided. It was agreed to appoint a Councillor to coordinate the building project.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Mrs Jeffreys to coordinate the project on behalf of SPC and to liaise with all parties involved. She would speak to the builders to establish start and completion dates and update the Council on other facts that were needed to enable storage facilities to be housed on the LGRG.
The football club asked if it was possible for them to use the toilets in the Village Hall during the building phase. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Trustees of the Village Hall who will make the decision.
The Trustees emailed the Council regarding waste disposal. It was evident that users of the pavilion had been using the bin designated for the hall and it was becoming overloaded. They asked if the Council had considered its own facility. Cllrs agreed to monitor the situation and make a decision before the opening of the facility.
- c) Cllr Barrington-Johnson had submitted a request on behalf of the LGVS requesting that consideration be given to a container being based on LGRG to house marquees that have become available to the LGVS. He advised that the need for storage was quite urgent because of liquidation issues. Cllrs discussed the matter and it was noted that any storage will require planning permission which will take some time (this also refers to the request from the sports clubs). Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that in the short-term they would look to house them elsewhere and re-consider the long-term storage issue.
- d) KCC has requested that a Practical Completion contract be signed following the handover of the footpath and the car park. This is part of the phased handover and details, including Defects Liability Periods (DLP), were outlined by KCC. It was agreed to sign the contract and Cllrs Mrs Horne and Milner would diarise the DLP dates and prior to the completed period report any defects. The DLP dates are **15th December 2015** for the rear car parks; **21st April 2016** for the new footpath to the school and **7th September 2016** for existing footpath between Winstone Scott Avenue and the new footpath.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 8-1 to approve the recommendation of the Amenities and Finance Committees that CCTV be installed to monitor the car parks at LGRG at a cost of £6,707.20.

15/231 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: An email from Donaldson West (SPC Solicitors) was received on 29th September advising that the transfer for the land at Ashurst has been received from TWBC. It was **RESOLVED** that the solicitor proceed with the transfer as outlined in the email.

15/232 PUBLIC OPEN MEETING: Cllrs should be at the Village Hall in Speldhurst at 7- 7.15pm to prepare the hall for seating etc. Cllr Barrington-Johnson will ask Peter Brown to talk about crime prevention and CCTV and Ken Howes will update on the Parish Plan. There will be pamphlets on air traffic to be handed out. Cllr Milner will discuss highways issues.

15/233 KCC STREET LIGHTING CONSULTATION: It was agreed to delegate the completion of the consultation for the Council to Cllrs Milner, Mrs Lyle and the Clerk.

15/234 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: There was nothing to report.

15/235 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – a meeting was held on 15th September and the minutes have been circulated.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to amend and re-adopt the Standing Orders to include the limit of 5 years on a Chairman's term of office.
 - ii. It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Winter Weather Policy without amendment.
 - iii. It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Media Policy without amendment.
 - iv. It was **RESOLVED** to re-adopt the Investment Policy.
- b) **Planning** – meetings were held on 14th and 30th September and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 26th October.
- c) **Amenities** – a meeting was held on 21st September and the minutes have been circulated.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to repair the damage to the Pocket Park wall at a cost of £140.00 and to delegate the Clerk to authorise such repairs in the future up to £200.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson reported that there had been no meeting of the Air Traffic committee but there had been a High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group (HWCAAG) meeting. Prior to this meeting Cllr Barrington-Johnson had represented HWCAAG at a meeting with GAL and NATS and he noted that both parties seemed to be taking HWCAAG more seriously and there was promise of a changing attitude on issues such as multiple routes to the ILS with GAL contributing 50% of the costs to the study.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported on mending stiles in Shadwell Woods, a complaint about bonfires at Peacock Farm and detritus left in a footpath at the rear of Ryders in Langton Green.
- f) **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)** – There was nothing to report
- g) **Parish Plan Working Group** – a working group meeting was held on 9th September and the meeting notes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 21st October. The Clerk emphasised that the plan was now entering the critical phase and the working group would be looking to Councillors for support during the delivery and collections.
- h) **Environment Working Group** – There was nothing to report

15/236 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7th SEPTEMBER 2015: There were none.

15/237 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Came & Company Council Matters Newsletter Autumn 2015
2. Letter dated 2nd September from Unity Bank with information on changes to payment processing services and the financial services compensation scheme
3. Information on KALC Councillors Information Day on Wednesday 14th October at Teynham Village Hall
4. Information from Bluebird Care on a Later Life Care Event on Saturday 17th October at Wyevale Garden Centre, Tunbridge Wells
5. Letter dated 9th September from TWBC with details of the Remembrance Sunday Service on 8th November at TWBC War Memorial

6. Email dated 11th September from Ashurst & Blackham Sports Association with details of their AGM on Friday 9th October and the official opening of the new pavilion on Saturday 10th October
7. Letter dated 16th September from Paul Carter Leader of KCC acknowledging receipt of Cllr Barrington-Johnson's letter of 15th September regarding the Kent Environment Survey and air traffic
8. Email dated 25th September from Ed Langridge regarding the disruption in Langton Green caused by overrunning gas works in a number of roads
9. Email dated 1st October from Roger Mallett inviting Councillors to the AGM of the Trustees of the Langton Green Village Hall
10. Email dated 1st October from Robin Humphries inviting Councillors to the ABSA AGM on Friday 9th October; to the opening of the new pavilion on Saturday 10th October (to be opened by Greg Clark MP) and a bonfire and firework evening on Saturday 1st November.

15/238 DIARY DATES:

Monday 5th October – Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH

Wednesday 7th October – Police Contact Point – St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst – **12-1pm**

Thursday 8th October – LGCT AGM – Ellis Room, LGVH

Friday 9th October – ABSA AGM- Ashurst pavilion

Saturday 10th October- Opening of new pavilion 12pm for 12.30pm

Monday 12th October – Autumn Open Meeting – Speldhurst Village Hall – 7.30 for 8pm

Monday 19th October – Finance meeting – Office

Wednesday 21st October – Parish Plan meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH

Wednesday 21st October – Police Contact Point – St Mary's Lane, Speldhurst – **12 - 1pm**

Monday 26th October – Planning meeting – Office

Saturday 1st November – ABSA Fireworks – 5pm gates open for 7pm start

Monday 2nd November – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Village Hall

15/239 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION: There was nothing to report

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.36pm

Chairman

