



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

Minutes of an Amenities Committee Meeting held in the Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground on Thursday 24th May 2018 at 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Allen and Mrs Woodliffe (7.40pm),

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman: RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Mrs Podbury remain as Chairman to the Amenities Committee.

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that Trevor Parker, who had recently retired from SPC, will be missed on the Amenities Committee and his valuable contribution was noted.

2. **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.
3. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** apologies received from Cllr Mrs Jeffreys (holiday).
4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
5. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
6. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **27th March 2018** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
8. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** there was none.
9. **Financial Review** – The finance sheets were circulated and Councillors noted they were satisfactory.
10. **Parish Plan** – The Assistant Clerk said that the office had received an enquiry from a resident regarding the installation of electric car charging facilities in the Langton Green carpark. Councillors had serious reservations regarding this provision and were worried that the system could be abused by residents leaving their cars charging overnight without having to pay for the facility. It was **RESOLVED** that the issue be put to Full Council.

11. Parish Council Land

- a. **Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**
 - i. Langton Green Village Hall – there were no issues to discuss.
 - ii. Pavilion – there were no issues to discuss
 - iii. Sports Clubs – there were no issues to discuss
 - iv. Play Area – there were no issues to discuss
 - v. Use of Recreation Ground – there were no issues to discuss
 - vi. Car Park – The overflowing bottle bank was noted once again. Action: Cllr Mrs Podbury to report it to Gary Stephenson at TWBC to request it is emptied more frequently in future.
 - vii. Groundsman – there was nothing to report.
 - b. **The Green at Langton Green** – there was nothing to report.
 - c. **The Green at Groombridge** – there was nothing to report.
 - d. **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** – there was nothing to report.
 - e. **Signs on Council Land** – there was nothing to report.
 - f. **The Boundary** – there was nothing to report.
 - g. **Langton Green Allotments** – Following an update on the situation at Full Council, it was **RESOLVED** that this item could be removed from future agendas.
 - h. **Trees** –
 - a) **Ash Die Back** – The Assistant Clerk circulated an email with advice from the Tree Officer. Councillors noted that Treework's chart was incomplete – the percentages of damage to trees in the parish had not been completed. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk should go back to Treework to obtain this information before the situation could be considered further.
 - b) **Roopers** - Advice had been received from the Tree Officer recommending that Hornbeam and Field Maple be planted instead of the Holm Oak. Councillors were worried that Field Maple self-seeds and it was therefore agreed to ask Treework to quote for the felling of the existing firs, the TPO paperwork involved and the replanting with Hornbeam. Once full costs are known, the matter can go to Full Council for a decision.
 - c) **Hedges** – An email had been received from a resident of Roopers regarding the recent cutting of the hedges. It noted that it was the wrong time of year to cut the beech hedge because it is expected to grow considerably in the coming weeks. There is also the worry of nesting birds. Additionally, the cut was not adequate, it had only taken off the loose new growth. It was **RESOLVED** the Assistant Clerk contact Martin Lawrence of A1 Garden Services to ask him to rectify the situation as much as possible.
- 12. Public Rights of Way** – Cllr Mrs Soyke has sent an email to Cllr Milner regarding the footpaths near Broadland and Manor Court Farm where the stiles needed attention. Cllr Mrs Podbury said that nothing had been done yet on the section of footpath between Stockland Green Road and The Mill which she had reported previously. She said the steps had become slippery and dangerous. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk contacts Cllr Milner to ask if the High Weald Footpath group could be asked to help.
- 13. Bouncy Castle Policy** – The Assistant Clerk had received emails recently from residents wishing to have a bouncy castle on the LGRG outside the Village Hall. Insurance advice had been obtained from Came and Co. Councillors were extremely cautious of the liability implications and asked if the Clerk could speak to the Trustees of Village Hall regarding this. They felt that it was not an issue SPC should be getting involved with. In the meantime, it was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk goes back to the residents saying that it was not a possibility at the present time due to the potential insurance liabilities.
- 14. Dog Bins** – An email had been received from a resident asking if the LG Village Society paid for the provision of a new dog bin at the bottom of Langholm Road, would SPC be willing to pay for it to be serviced. Councillors discussed the matter and it was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk be asked to contact the canine removal service provider to obtain costs before a decision could be made. The email had also asked if more frequent street cleaning can be carried out in the parish. It was also agreed that the Assistant Clerk speak to the resident who had contacted the office to find out the roads in question and then contact Gary Stephenson at TWBC regarding an additional street clean.

15. Items for Information –

- The Assistant Clerk advised Councillors that the LGVH, Speldhurst Village Hall and Pavilion are all on the Borough Council's list as Welfare Centres in the event of an emergency.
- Footpath behind Speldhurst Primary School - councillors agreed it was a good idea to offer to clear the footpath, in the event of the school expanding and opening up the footpath as an additional access to the premises. It was agreed to wait until permission had been received on the application before asking the Groundsman to help.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there will be an article in next month's Local magazine regarding the use of plastics. She said she would speak to Cllr Mrs Price about a plastic free policy.
- An email from a resident in Southfields regarding a damaged BT phone box that was waiting removal was noted.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman