



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

**MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 at 7.30PM  
CONDUCTED ONLINE VIA ZOOM ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Rowe (Chair), Mrs Soyke, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Woodliffe, Turner, Langridge, Myles and Mrs Podbury (8.05pm)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

1. **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.
2. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** Cllr Mrs Podbury joined the meeting at 8.05pm, once a previous meeting had finished. Cllr Mrs Woodliffe ???
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** Cllr Langridge declared an interest in item 9a) installation of charity clothes bin as Deputy Chairman of the 3H Fund.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **13<sup>th</sup> October 2020** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Public Open Session:** No members of the public were present.
7. **Matters Arising and Actions from the Previous Minutes:**
  - The Chairman ran through the list of matters from the previous minutes as follows:-
  - The yellow posts had been installed outside the LG Village Hall and carpark gates.
  - Island beds on LG The Green: correspondence had been received from two residents regarding the parish council's recent letter requesting the grasses are reinstated. Cllr Mrs Lyle had drafted a letter which would be sent from SPC however more information about the conditions imposed by TWBC when the land was transferred regarding how the area was to be planted were to be confirmed by the Assistant Clerk and the letter reviewed by the committee before it was sent out. It was agreed that the area would be replanted with native wild grasses by the Groundsman.
  - The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Groundsman had run through the legionnaires testing procedure with a plumber on the Pavilion kitchen water system. He would commence a regular

programme of testing the following week. The system which fed the changing rooms would remain on dormant mode for the foreseeable future.

- Nothing had been heard back from the residents of Roopers, Speldhurst regarding a 'No Through Road' sign by the Pocket Park.
- All tree and shrub maintenance work had been completed except the works to the diseased cherry tree in Pocket Park which had been authorised and diarised for the Spring.
- The tree maintenance work required at 75 The Boundary had been authorised and would be carried out in the near future.
- SPC's land in Lampington Row was included in SPC's asset register.
- The Assistant Clerk had organised signs to be put up around the LGRG carpark warning motorists to leave their vehicles at their own risk. She would also be replacing the faded Fire Assembly Point sign.

#### 8. Financial Review:

The finance sheets had been circulated. The Assistant Clerk confirmed a £4K virement into cost centre 4206 would be made by the Clerk for LGRG maintenance.

#### 9. Parish Council Land:

##### a) Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i) Langton Green Village Hall: there was nothing to report.
- ii) Pavilion: there was nothing to report.
- iii) Sports Clubs: there was nothing to report.
- iv) Play Areas: there was nothing to report.
- v) Recreation Ground: Cllr Mrs Lyle advised that the patch of grass on Lampington Row adjacent to the path leading to the primary school was now extremely muddy and that a resolution would need to be found as a matter of urgency. Children of keyworkers were still attending the school.
- vi) Carpark:
  - Cllr Mrs Lyle said that the CCTV advisory signs which indicated who the system was operated by were blank. The Assistant Clerk would arrange for them to be rewritten.
  - Installation of Stop sign and line at entrance to the carpark: It was agreed that the junction was a hazard with motorists often not stopping but instead driving straight towards the junction with Speldhurst Road. It was **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk would investigate the location of SPC's boundary in the hope that a line could be drawn on SPC's land to encourage motorists to stop before they drove onto Winstone Scott Avenue. The Assistant Clerk would also order a STOP AND GIVEWAY sign to be sited at the junction.
  - Action to prevent cars idling in the carpark: It was noted that cars are regularly left idling, particularly during school drop off and pick-up times. The Admin Assistant would be asked to incorporate the anti-idling message in a broader and continuous media campaign. Signs asking motorists to "Switch off your engine when you park in this carpark!" would be ordered by the Assistant Clerk.
  - Annual pest control contract: It was **RESOLVED** that an annual pest control contract would be taken out for the carpark at a cost of £600.
  - Installation of a charity clothes bin support of the 3H Fund: Cllr Langridge, as Deputy Chairman of the charity said that 3H Fund is a longstanding Speldhurst-based charity which was experiencing a severe cutback in donations during the past year. He hoped

SPC could site a clothes bin next to the fenced-off bin enclosure in an effort to raise some much needed finance for the charity. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Langridge could place an order for the bin on the proviso that he monitors the area to prevent bags of clothes being left lying around and ensures it is emptied regularly and the parish council can have it removed promptly should it become a nuisance. There was nothing to report.

- b) **The Green at Langton Green:** It was agreed that LGVS could plant bulbs on the Green.
- c) **The Green at Groombridge:**
  - Cllr Rowe reported back on proposals from contractors to prevent further erosion of the Green. It was **RESOLVED** that no action be taken until the new development at Burrswood was completed because of the risk of damage from lorries etc. In the meantime, photos would be taken of the Green in its current state as evidence so that the developers can be asked to make good any damage caused by their vehicles during the development phase. The Committee could use the quotations as evidence when applying for S106 contributions from the developer towards general improvements around The Green.
- d) **The Pocket Parks at Speldhurst:**

It was agreed that residents could erect a 'No Through Road' sign, providing SPC approved the proof.
- e) **The Boundary at Langton Green:**

It was **RESOLVED** to carry out the following maintenance work at a total cost of £1,140, which would be recommended to the Finance Committee: Fell the Scarlet Oak opposite no. 81 and grind out the stump; carry out a general tidy up of trees and shrubs in the vicinity and to cut back the shrubs near to the pond. Cllr Mrs Lyle suggested replanting the area using trees from the Woodland Trust initiative and it was agreed Cllr Langridge would liaise with the LGVS and residents.

#### 10. Trees:

Cllr Langridge reported on his visit to 75 The Boundary following a request from the resident for tree works to be carried out on the adjacent SPC land. On his recommendation, it was **RESOLVED** to fell the Alder tree and cut back the shrubs to prevent damage to the resident's fence. The Assistant Clerk was to investigate whether planning permission would be required.

#### 11. Public Rights of Way:

It was **RESOLVED** that this matter be put on the next Full Council agenda in order to obtain a volunteer councillor to take over the role previously carried out by Rupert Milner of liaison with KCC and organisation of the volunteers and groundsman. It was not considered a matter for the Amenities Committee.

#### 12. Items for Information:

- The Assistant Clerk reported that a quote for remedial works on a diseased Cherry Tree in the Pocket Park in Speldhurst had not been received in time to be included on the agenda however councillors considered the work essential and agreed the £276 would be paid by the Chairman or Clerk under delegated authority.
- The Assistant Clerk reported that a builder had churned up the grass on SPC land in Lampington Row, Langton Green. The Contractor had agreed to reseed and make good the area. The Assistant Clerk was asked to liaise with the Clerk to ensure the plot was included on SPC's asset register.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Chairman

DRAFT