



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3rd MARCH 2014 at 7.30pm
IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Pendleton (left at 8.30pm), Turner and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: Kent County Councillor John Davies and Borough Councillor Julian Stanyer

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

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

The Chairman said that several Councillors had attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Peter Craine this afternoon. Cllr Mrs Soyke paid tribute to the work he had done for the Air Traffic Committee during his time as a Parish Councillor and Cllr Woodward spoke of his involvement with the Broadband Working Group.

14/065 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mrs Hull (prior engagement) and Borough Councillor David Jukes

14/066 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: There were none

14/067 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Cllr Langridge declared that several members of the public have spoken to him about First World War events.

14/068 MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **3rd February 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on **11th February 2014** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/069 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

County Cllr Davies said he was very pleased to see the improvements carried out at Stone Ness to alleviate the flooding problems. He advised that he is meeting with residents of Langton Green on 5th March regarding the planning application for Langton Green Primary School expansion and that the KCC planning meeting for this application is on 25th March.

Borough Cllr Stanyer reported that following the death of Deputy Mayor Bothwell on 27th February 2014, he will become Mayor from June 2014. He referred to the freedom of information request regarding traffic accidents on Langton Road, Langton Green and the Clerk reported that Borough Cllr Jukes has written to KCC requesting a 30mph speed limit along the whole of Langton Road.

Borough Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that she has been in contact with County Cllr Matthew Balfour and that there may be an open meeting in connection with aircraft noise arranged for 24th April at TWBC.

14/070 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:

There were three members of the public present.

Michael Jarrett of Ashurst reported a number of potholes. County Cllr Davies confirmed that money has been allocated for pothole repairs but that it will take considerable time for all the work to be carried out.

Trevor Myles of The Walks, Old Groombridge expressed his concerns about speeding on Groombridge Hill and gave his suggestions for traffic calming measures which will be considered by the Highways Committee at their meeting on 24th March. He also reported that the drains are blocked in Bird-In-Hand Street and he has reported this to KCC.

14/071 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- i) Cllr Owen reported that a committee meeting was held on 17th February and the minutes have been circulated.
- ii) Cllr Owen reported on seven budget virements. It was **RESOLVED** that transfers are made as follows: Speldhurst village website £100, Langton Life magazine £750, Groombridge magazine £140 – Newsletters and Media/Administration and post and wire fencing at LGRG £583, hedge planting at LGRG £570, clearing storm damaged trees at LGRG £340, purchase of leaf blower and snow shovels £280 – Langton Green maintenance/Amenities.
- iii) It was **RESOLVED** to invest £50,000 of Council Reserves in the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- iv) It was **RESOLVED** to renew the CPRE membership for the year at a cost of £29.

14/072 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Horne

<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque/Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
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Notification of additional payments in February

Lenco Motor Spares	ALTO027	19.99	Reflectors
CWCS	ALTO026	150.00	Domain renewal

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Samaritans	131	250.00	Grant
Hospice in the Weald	132	1,000.00	Grant
Langton Green Primary School	133	500.00	Marchiennes grant
Speldhurst CEP Primary School	134	2,000.00	Grant
BT PLC	DD	18.00	Mobile
Langton Green Charitable Trust	MT279	45.00	Meeting room hire
Ms K Lawrence	MT280	15.00	Cleaner
Langton Life	MT281	250.00	Magazine
Groombridge Sports Ground	MT282	1,000.00	Grant
Mr L Cooper	MT283	250.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT284	13.64	Maintenance expenses
C May	MT285	1,406.41	Salary
C May	MT286	30.00	Expenses
M Flemington	MT287	651.81	Salary
M Flemington	MT288	24.40	Expenses
HMRC	MT289	731.39	Tax & NI
Came & Co	MT290	23.00	Extn of Lorega insurance
RIP Cleaning Services	MT291	172.80	Canine refuse collection

Total payments **£8,381.45**

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

The Clerk advised that there may be further payments made this month as it is the year end at the end of March and that any payments will be reported at the April meeting.

14/073 HIGHWAYS: Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that the next committee meeting will be held on 24th March. KCC Highways think they have solved the flooding issues at Stone Ness: a speed check survey is in progress in Lower Green Road; South East Water will be closing Langton Road in the summer and the Clerk is liaising with them regarding appropriate diversions; the possibility of additional barriers on Barden Road will be discussed at the Committee meeting and KCC Highways have advised that the only solution in connection with crossing at the top of Speldhurst Hill would be additional signage. The Clerk reported that he has met with Borough Cllr Derrick and obtained the support of both schools to the proposal for 20mph speed limits outside the schools and that Broom Lane is closed until repairs can be carried out (access for residents only). A Speedwatch training session with the Police was held on 27th February for Cllrs and members of the public. Speedwatch locations were agreed as follows: five in Langton Green, two in Speldhurst, two in Ashurst and two in Old Groombridge and Cllr Langridge has prepared a letter to be sent to the owner asking for permission to carry out Speedwatch where the location is on private land. Cllr Langridge's report on the Speedwatch training had been circulated to all Cllrs.

14/074 COUNCILLOR VACANCY: The Clerk reported that the election notices will be posted on 4th March and that if no election has been called by 24th March a new Councillor will be co-opted. The vacancy will be notified in the village magazines and the Clerk will contact the previous applicants.

14/075 FIRST WORLD WAR: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys referred to the emails from Peter Blackwell of the Deputy Lieutenant's office and Ivan Goodsell, Speldhurst School and suggested that as there are many different ideas, a Working Group be formed. Cllr Langridge offered to lead the Working Group and Cllrs Mrs Horne and Milner offered to assist together with members of the public.

14/076 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID: The Clerk reported that TWBC have advised that they cannot consider the bid for The Green, Langton Green because it does not comply with Schedule 1 of the Localism Act. It was **RESOLVED** to confirm to TWBC that SPC will not continue with the bid in its present form and to write to the landowners. Should the approach to the landowners be unsuccessful SPC may consider taking legal advice and submitting a further nomination form if appropriate. It was **RESOLVED** to defer the possible nomination of Shadwell Wood to a later date.

14/077 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY: It was **AGREED** to have speakers from several of the local organisations represented on the evening instead of having a guest speaker. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reminded all Committee chairman that they need to prepare a report for the brochure. The Clerk reported that following this year's meeting an APA Working Group will be set up and that new members will be required.

14/078 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the next Parish Chairmen's meeting is on 11th March and that she has been invited to Withyham Parish Council's new format Annual Parish Assembly on 26th April.

14/079 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- i) **Governance** – Cllr Pendleton reported that the next Committee meeting will be held on 26th March. The co-option policy and the Clerks' salary structures will be on the agenda.
- ii) **Planning** – Cllr Langridge reported that a Committee meeting was held on 10th February and that the minutes have been circulated. The next Committee meeting will be held on 10th March.
- iii) **Amenities** – Cllr Milner reported that the next Committee meeting will be held on 17th March.

- iv) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Mrs Soyke reported that the Air Traffic Committee would like to be able to prepare a short newsletter and information sheet for electronic transmission to interested residents. It was **AGREED** that she will prepare a draft for the April meeting. She also reported that the Committee would like to recommend SPC joining HWPCAAG as a full member. It was **AGREED** that this will be discussed and a decision taken at the April meeting.
- v) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that KCC will be clearing the beech tree which has fallen across the bridleway in Shadwell Wood and mending the handrail bridge.
- vi) **Broadband** – Cllr Woodward reported that there is still no official announcement from KCC regarding the DEFRA funding. He will contact KCC again.
- vii) **KALC** – Cllr Mrs Hull's report on the KALC meeting held on 26th February had been circulated.
- viii) **Parish Plan Working Group** – Cllr Turner reported that the next meeting will be held on 13th March and that it is hoped to appoint a member of the public as leader of the group at the meeting.
- ix) **Environment Working Group** – A meeting was held on 18th February and the notes have been circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Environment Policy.

14/080 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 3RD FEBRUARY 2014:

The Clerk will contact Town & Country Housing again about the possibility of bollards at Winstone Scott Avenue.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that the leases for Langton Green Recreation Ground pavilion have been signed by Speldhurst Parish Council and Langton Green Community Sports Association Ltd.

14/081 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Unity Trust Bank Newsletter Issue five
2. Letter dated January 2014 from the co-operative bank advising there is a branch in Mount Pleasant Tunbridge Wells from 10th February
3. Email dated 27th January from KALC detailing a South East Coast Ambulance Service information event on 13th March in Rochester
4. Letter dated 31st January from Roy Harvey with a maintenance schedule for the Langton Green village sign
5. Letter dated 3rd February from Patsy Henley thanking SPC for looking into parking problems outside Speldhurst village shop
6. Email dated 13th February from KALC regarding the 50th anniversary this year of South and South East in Bloom
7. Letter from KCC regarding public consultation on the pre submission document draft of the Kent minerals and waste local plan

14/082 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Monday 3rd March – Full Council meeting – Ashurst Village Hall**
2. Monday 3rd March - Thanksgiving Service for Peter Craine – All Saints' Church, Langton Green – **2.30pm**
3. Monday 10th March – Planning meeting – office
4. Thursday 13th March – Parish Plan Working Group meeting - LGVH
5. Monday 17th March – Amenities meeting – office
6. Monday 24th March – Highways meeting – office
7. Wednesday 26th March – Governance meeting - office
8. **Monday 7th April – Full Council meeting – Ellis Room, LGVH**
9. **Monday 28th April – Annual Parish Assembly – LGVH – 7 for 7.30pm**

14/083 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys congratulated Cllr Parker on another very successful Langton Green Rural Society quiz night.

Cllr Mrs Horne reported flooding near Salomons. Highways are aware of this.

Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that the Air Traffic Committee would like a table at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Cllr Turner reported that the Speldhurst School crossing lights are permanently on at present.

The Clerk asked if Cllrs would like to present the grant cheque to Speldhurst School at one of their assemblies.

Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys and Cllr Milner volunteered.

Cllr Mrs Podbury reported that she and other Cllrs had attended Speldhurst School's Ofsted outstanding presentation. She advised that Speldhurst Play Area is holding a fundraising Auction of Promises on 22nd March.

She reported that Greg Clark MP's surgery on 14th March at Speldhurst is already fully booked.

Cllr Langridge asked Cllr Woodward if Broadband would like a table at the Annual Parish Assembly. He reported that the litter pick scheduled for 25th February had to be cancelled because of bad weather and is re-arranged for 18th March. Cllr Owen advised that there is a lot of litter in Lampington Row near the school.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.51pm

Chairman