



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER 2014 at 7.30pm
IN SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman), Mrs Horne, Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Barrington-Johnson, Langridge, Milner, Owen, Parker, Turner and Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor John Davies and Borough Councillor David Jukes

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There was one member of the public present who arrived at 7.43pm

14/192 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Pendleton (family illness)

14/193 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS: Cllr Mrs Soyke declared a non-pecuniary interest in 14/198 h) and Cllr Mrs Jeffreys declared a non-pecuniary interest in 14/204

14/194 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING: Several Councillors have been lobbied about Gatwick and aircraft noise.

14/195 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **4th August 2014** be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/196 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Borough Councillor David Jukes reported that TWBC hope to put the old cinema site into use as a car park for Christmas following the demolition work. He reported that the issue of 20mph speed limits outside schools will be discussed at the Parish Chairmen's meeting on 2nd September.

County Councillor John Davies reported that he has now had a response from Town & Country Housing regarding Winstone Scott Avenue but that it has not concluded the matter of the bollards. He reported that he is attending a Broadband seminar on 2nd September.

14/197 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: There were no members of the public present for the public open session.

14/198 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Owen

- a) There has been no Committee meeting since the last Full Council.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve two budget virements; £5,035 from Highways to s137 for the kerbing and re-surfacing at The Green and £60 from Contingency to Miscellaneous Grants for the First World War Working Group projects.

- c) The Clerk reported on three interim payments made since the last Council meeting and it was **RESOLVED** to approve these (see list below).
- d) The Clerk reported that the Annual audit had been signed off by the external auditor and the only comment was the failure to include the minute reference on the form. A copy had been circulated to Councillors and the notice of conclusion has been posted.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** to grant £800 to St John's Church Groombridge towards churchyard maintenance.
- f) The Clerk reported that nothing further had been heard from WRAP regarding the request for funding towards the Street Cruiser project.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to release the previously agreed grant of £15,000 and the additional amount of £10,000 for the playground improvements to Speldhurst Village Recreation Committee as soon as confirmation that Veolia have agreed their grant is received.
- h) After considerable discussion it was agreed to ask ABSA for further information regarding the grant request in connection with the installation of a disabled toilet and to consider this at the next meeting. Cllr Jukes advised that TWBC do allocate grants for this purpose and he would confirm this to the Clerk. **The Clerk was requested to ask ABSA to supply further information regarding other grants applied for and whether any other quotations had been sought.**

14/199 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Woodward

<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 August

RBS Software	MT381	130.80	Annual maintenance
Sac-O-Mat UK Ltd	MT382	488.83	Canine refuse bags
Rymans	AO44	14.97	Stationery

Total payments		634.60	
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To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

Speldhurst News	150	10.00	Magazine subscription
KCC Cashiers	MT383	5,035.00	Kerbs & surfacing The Green
PKF Littlejohn LLP	MT384	480.00	External Audit
Langton Life	MT385	250.00	Magazine article
Treework	MT386	336.00	Removal of fallen tree
M R Lawrence	MT387	220.00	Mowing & strimming
KALC	MT388	144.00	Training Courses
Premiere Digital	MT389	300.00	A3 boards for FWWWG
Mr L Cooper	MT390	340.00	Groundsman's duties
Mr L Cooper	MT391	58.00	Fence repairs
Mr L Cooper	MT392	31.33	Maintenance expenses
C May	MT393	1,408.45	Salary
C May	MT394	27.67	Expenses
M Flemington	MT395	668.72	Salary
M Flemington	MT396	41.50	Expenses
HMRC	MT397	725.60	Tax & NI
RIP Cleaning Services	MT398	172.80	Canine refuse
Prestige Web Marketing	MT399	60.00	Maintenance of website
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	DD	55.00	Non-domestic

Total payments		10,364.07	
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It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, sign the cheques and authorise the BACS in Unity Trust Bank

14/200 HIGHWAYS: Cllr Langridge reported that he anticipates starting Speedwatch sessions again soon with or without the attendance of PCSOs. The traffic surveys that were carried out in Ashurst and Groombridge confirmed that a substantial percentage of traffic exceeded limits and the Clerk is investigating the possibility of speed cameras. Cllr Langridge reported that a member of the public from Ashurst is joining the committee and that a site on the A264 near Farnham Lane is a possibility for a bus shelter.

14/201 EAST FACING SLIPS ON M25: Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to support the feasibility study.

14/202 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG): The Clerk reported that he saw and spoke to horse riders on LGRG one morning last week. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to prohibit horse riding. It was also **RESOLVED** that the use of motorised vehicles on LGRG was prohibited without prior permission from the Clerk. **The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of appropriate signage.**

14/203 KCC WORKS ON SCHOOL AND LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND CAR PARKS AND FOOTPATHS: The Clerk reported that there has been a slight slippage in KCC's programme but that the Contractor should be appointed soon. KCC want to discuss the matter and will arrange a meeting and there will be a report at the next meeting.

14/204 TRANSFER OF LAND FROM TWBC: The Clerk reported that the transfer of the piece of land adjacent to the A264 at Ashurst is proceeding but that the land behind Mill Place Cottages is not being transferred to SPC. He reported that the transfer of the land at The Boundary, Langton Green has not taken place yet as he has questioned with TWBC the condition of the pond, when it was last maintained and the ongoing costs of maintenance.

14/205 KALC AREA COMMITTEE: Following discussion and despite some reservations it was agreed to continue with membership of the KALC Area Committee and to monitor whether or not it is beneficial. **Cllr Mrs Jeffreys will email Christopher Woodley to advise him of this decision.**

14/206 PUBLIC OPEN MEETING: The Open Meeting is on Monday 13th October at Speldhurst Village Hall. Refreshment will be served from 7.30pm and the meeting will start at 8pm. The format for the poster boards to advertise the meeting was agreed and display boards and some hand-outs will be used.

14/207 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported that TWBC have decided to discontinue discretionary funding for some amenities for rural town and parish councils but that this does not affect SPC. She advised that Cllr Milner is attending the Parish Chairmen's meeting on 2nd September on her behalf. TWBC Love Where We Live Awards presentations are on 14th October and Langton Green Netball Club is one of the finalists. Cllr Langridge is attending and any other Councillors wishing to attend should notify the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that there had been a situation last week where a meeting was inquorate. **As a result all apologies for absence and notifications concerning holidays must be emailed to the Clerk and the Clerk must email an acknowledgement.** If the Councillor does not receive an acknowledgement he should consider that his apology has not been received.

14/208 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Governance** – A Committee meeting was held on 14th August and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 1st October.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the reviewed Budget Virement Policy.
 - ii. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Media Policy, subject to two minor grammatical amendments.
 - iii. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the new Standing Orders based on NALC's new model.

- b) **Planning** – A Committee meeting was held on 11th August and the minutes have been circulated. The next meeting is on 8th September. Cllr Mrs Horne referred to correspondence from neighbours in respect of the application at Clint, Furzefield Avenue, Speldhurst saying that the committee has to respond to applications from a planning objective. She said the committee was frustrated that planning permission had been allowed at appeal for the change of use of an existing outbuilding to single dwelling at 30 Holmewood Ridge, Langton Green despite SPC recommending refusal for several planning reasons and TWBC refusing planning permission.
- c) **Amenities** – A Committee meeting was held on 7th August and the minutes have been circulated. Cllr Mrs Hull had also prepared a report which had been circulated.
 - i. It was **RESOLVED** to spend £518.50 on repairs to the safety surface in the playground at LGRG in accordance with the annual inspection report.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that she has asked Cllr Barrington-Johnson to be acting Chairman until the next Committee meeting on 25th September.
 - ii. The further amendment to the Terms of Reference was deferred until after the meeting on 25th September.
 - iii. The wording of the question to be tabled to KCC was agreed and passed to County Councillor John Davies.
 - iv. The date for the meeting with Greg Clark MP is to be confirmed and it was agreed to delegate the decision on the issues to be discussed to the Air Traffic Committee.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner reported that the number of footpath volunteers has dwindled but that the Groundsman may be able to do more footpath work in conjunction with the remaining volunteers. Cllr Langridge advised that there may be further funding available from Langton Green Village Society.
- f) **Broadband** – Cllr Woodward reported that it is now possible to get Infinity 2 in his locality.
- g) **KALC** – Cllr Mrs Hull advised that there was nothing to further to report in addition to the discussion under Item 14/205.
- h) **Parish Plan Working Group** – A meeting was held on 13th August and the notes have been circulated. Cllr Turner reported that the individual groups are meeting for discussion and the next meeting of the full working group is on 15th October. A new leader is still required.
- i) **Environment Working Group** – Cllr Mrs Hull reported that she was attending a KALC Ecology Seminar on Saturday 5th September. She anticipated that the next meeting will be held in November.
- j) **First World War Working Group** – Cllr Langridge reported that he will contact Rev. Douglas Wren and The War Memorials Trust to investigate the possibility of replacing Speldhurst War Memorial before 1918.
- k) **Security** – Cllr Langridge advised that he is attending a meeting with Peter Brown and another Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator and will report back to SPC.

14/209 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 4th AUGUST 2014:

The Clerk reported that prices have been obtained for the defibrillators and the next step was to apply for any available grants. Discussions are taking place with Withyham Parish Council about the possibility of a shared defibrillator at Groombridge Village Hall.

The Assistant Clerk reported that the tree survey at LGRG following the fallen diseased tree will be carried out shortly by Treework.

The Assistant Clerk reported that KCC have confirmed that all applications for fracking will be submitted to them and that TWBC and SPC will be consulted in the normal way.

Cllr Woodward offered to look into whether there is any way to have more efficient contact with Town & Country Housing.

14/210 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. ACRK (Action with communities in rural Kent) Rural News Issue 139
2. Letter dated 11th August from the RSPB with an update on the habitat restoration work at Broadwater Warren nature reserve
3. Email dated 8th August from St Martin's Church thanking SPC for the grant for tree maintenance work in the churchyard

4. Information booklet 'Fraud isn't just a scam it's a crime – a community guide to identifying and preventing fraud' prepared by Kent and Essex Police
5. 41 emails regarding aircraft noise and copies of consultations sent in

The Clerk advised that the list of correspondence is now generally quite short as the majority of matters that come in are discussed with Councillors and dealt with or placed on the agenda for the next relevant meeting.

14/211 DIARY DATES: all meetings are at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

1. **Wednesday 3rd September** – Annual Parish Assembly Working Group meeting – Office – **3.30pm**
2. **Monday 8th September** – Planning meeting – Office
3. **Thursday 25th September** – Aircraft Traffic meeting – Office – **2.30pm**
4. **Monday 29th September** – Finance meeting – Office
5. **Wednesday 1st October** – Governance meeting - Office
6. **Monday 6th October** – **Full Council meeting** - LGVH – Ellis Room
7. **Monday 13th October** – **Autumn Open Meeting** – Speldhurst Village Hall – **7.30 for 8pm**

14/212 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Cllr Mrs Soyke advised that she will be replacing the old gate and broken stile on the footpath at Manor Court Farm with a new gate and hand gate. She also advised that there is a possibility of another noise monitor being installed within the parish, probably in Speldhurst.

The Clerk advised that members will be asked to become substitute members of Committees and this will be an Agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Langridge reported that the TWBC Fun Day at LGRG on 21st August was disappointing in terms of attendance but the diversion because of the water works could have contributed to this.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.07pm

Chairman