



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 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Milner (Chairman), Mrs Hull, Owen, Parker, Turner and Mrs Jeffreys (ex-officio)

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Chris May – Clerk and Mrs Meirion Flemington – Assistant Clerk

1. **To receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence:** There were none.
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Other Significant Interests:** There were none.
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
4. **Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on **14<sup>th</sup> November 2013** were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
5. **Public Open Session:**  
Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Committee on any matters relating to the work of the Committee or to raise any issues of concern.  
  
There were no members of the public present.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** There were none.
7. **Financial Review:** The clerk circulated the figures and details of expenditure to date were reviewed.
8. **2014 Anniversary of First World War:**
  - i. The Assistant Clerk reported that further work to try and remove the residual carbon pollution from Speldhurst War Memorial would cost £2,500-3,000 and would risk damage to the stone. It was **RESOLVED** not to carry out any further work.
  - ii. After discussion it was **AGREED** that consideration be given to arranging an event for 2014 and this will be on the agenda for the March or April Full Council meeting.

**9. The Green at Langton Green:**

- i. Extension of footpath – It has been established that KCC Highways own this footpath/service road in front of the cottages. The Clerk reported that KCC Highways are unlikely to put any funds to the footpath extension unless SPC contribute to the cost. The estimated cost of resurfacing is £5,000 and the amount set aside in the budget more than covered a 50% contribution. **The clerk would chase KCC for this work to be carried out after April.**
- ii. Planting of a tree – The Yew tree will be planted when all the South East Water works are completed.
- iii. The Assistant Clerk reported on TWBC Tree Officer's advice regarding the Copper Beech stump and planting of the replacement tree. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to leave the stump in situ and plant the replacement tree, possibly a Hornbeam, adjacent to it. The residents will be advised in due course.

**10. Trees on Council land:**

- i. The Clerk reported that emergency tree clearance work had to be carried out at LGRG and Roopers following the storms in December.
- ii. The Clerk reported that a tree also came down in the December storms across the path at LGRG. The tree was on Town and Country Housing land and he requested them to clear it from the path which they did and we are now waiting for them to clear the timber away.

**11. Langton Green Recreation Ground:**

- i. Sports Pavilion
  - a. The clerk circulated photographs of the showing the poor condition of the roof of the existing pavilion.
  - b. The LGSC has registered for charity status which they hoped would be confirmed in the near future.
  - c. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported on the need for the recreation fields to be included in the lease back agreement so that the club will have access to sport for the duration of the lease. **This will be recommended to Full Council for approval.** The clerk advised that LGSC would be interested in having a parish councillor as a trustee on the charity and Cllr Owen volunteered to do this.
- ii. Following discussion regarding the field rentals for 2014 and the request from the cricket club to allow two other local clubs to use the pitch for some weekend matches it was **RESOLVED** to charge field rentals of £1,000 to the cricket club and £200 to the stoolball club.
- iii. The clerk reported that Alan Ashby has planted the mixed broadleaved hedge around the overflow car park.
- iv. Dog mess – The clerk reported that there is a problem with the supply of dog bags and that the original source will have to be used which will be more expensive.
- v. Recycling – The assistant clerk reported that the situation with the bottle banks has improved recently particularly with TWBC providing two extra bottle banks before Christmas.
- vi. The clerk reported that there is an issue with members of the public using the verandah outside the office in the evenings and the PCSO is aware. This will be monitored.

**12. Groombridge Christmas Lights:** The clerk reported that to progress the possibility of uplighters information will be sought from a garden design/supply company.

**13. Groundsman:**

- i. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Groundsman's contracted hours are increased to 32 hours per month for the next financial year and that an

additional payment of £20/month is made to cover fuel instead of the biannual payments of £125.

- ii. The Assistant Clerk reported that the one day chain saw course is intended for domestic users and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the Groundsman attends a two day course at a cost of £225.

**14. Contract with A1 Garden Services:** After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to fix a three year contract with A1 Garden Services for the maintenance work at current prices.

**15. Public Rights of Way:**

- i. The clerk reported that he had received a reply from Ashurst Place Rest Home stating that they would not replace the stile between LGRG and Ashurst Place.
- ii. Cllr Milner reported that he has still heard nothing from Dr Powell although some smaller items of work have been attended to. **The assistant clerk to write to Dr Powell.**

**16. Asset Register:**

- i. The definite asset register is work in progress.

**17. TWBC Ward Walks Report:** The assistant clerk read out from the report those items that are of an amenities nature. There is no action required by this committee.

**18. Items for information:**

The Assistant Clerk reported that a request has been received for the children's football coaching course to be held at LGRG for five days from 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm

Chairman