



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE PALMER ROOM, LANGTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Barrington-Johnson (Chairman), Milner, Mrs Horne, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Lyle, Mrs Jeffreys, Turner, Kerby, Parker and Mercieca.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk and Mrs K Harman – Assistant Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor James McInroy.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no members of the public present.

**17/134 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.

**17/135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Price (family emergency), Cllr Allen (work commitments), Cllr Mrs Soyke (Mayoral duties) and Borough Cllrs David Jukes and Julian Stanyer (previous engagements).

**17/136 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.

**17/137 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:** Cllr Kerby advised that he had been involved in conversations with residents of Groombridge regarding events at Groombridge Place. Cllr Mrs Lyle said that she had been approached by LG Primary School asking for help regarding the parking issues in the LG carpark.

**17/138 MINUTES:** It was **RESOLVED** that the Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **24<sup>th</sup> April 2017** and the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on **5<sup>th</sup> June 2017** be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

**17/139 BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

- County Cllr James McInroy said that he had been busy being inducted and attending committee meetings however he had nothing to report yet.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she had received an email from William Benson regarding the travellers stopping in Rusthall on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July which advised that there was minimal damage to the site however the Officer that served them Notice had had his tyres slashed. Cllr Mrs Podbury referred to the suggested amendment to the planning constitution "call in" process and the term "significant". She said that Councillors have asked for the term "significant" to be defined. She also noted that there is much controversy over the proposed Calverley Park development which is to be discussed at the TWBC Full Council meeting next week.

**17/140 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** There were no matters for discussion.

**17/141 FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Cllr Mrs Jeffreys reported the following:-

- a) There had not been a Finance Committee meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- b) Virements – the ‘Highways’ budget centre has been subdivided which had resulted in several book-keeping entries. It was **RESOLVED** to approve these entries.
- c) Interim payments - the following interim payments have been made from the current account with Unity Trust Bank:- £25.36 N.E.S.T. – May pension payments; £196.03 Unity Trust Mastercard- to reduce balance to zero; £69.60 Veolia – waste disposal; £30.00 BT Plc – mobile and £35.40 bank charges. The following payments were made by Mastercard – Unity Trust Bank £6.00 card fee; Ryman's £6.99 stationery; Kidman's Ltd £68.00 maintenance; Langton Green Service Station £11.59 petrol; B&Q £10.00 equipment and Tate Fencing £26.58 post mix.
- d) All of the payments made by Mastercard were made under delegated authority with the exception of the card fee.
- e) It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to grant £260.62 to Speldhurst Fete Committee towards insurance costs.
- f) It was **RESOLVED** to pay for the removal of the branches and foliage from Pocket Park at a cost of £1,000. Cllr Milner will speak to Paul Freddi from Roopers regarding organising the remaining compost for residents' use.
- g) It was **RESOLVED** to pay the insurance renewal premium with Came and Co at a cost of £3,065.34.

**17/142 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Invoices verified by Cllr Mrs Price

To authorise the payment of invoices as listed

| Date Paid | Payee Name                    | Reference | Amount            | Detail                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 04-July   | Craigdene Ltd                 | 1644/17   | 114.00            | Insurance costings advice  |
| 04-July   | Chris Allen                   | MT1061    | 14.00             | Timpsons                   |
| 04-July   | M R Lawrence                  | MT1062    | 320.00            | Gardening services         |
| 04-July   | Treework                      | MT1063    | 456.00            | Work at Boundary, LG       |
| 04-July   | KALC                          | MT1064    | 72.00             | NP workshop                |
| 04-July   | St John's Church, Groombridge | MT1065    | 1,000.00          | Churchyard maintenance     |
| 04-July   | Archer Signs and Panels Ltd   | MT1066    | 105.30            | Private Access Only        |
| 04-July   | Paul Cheater                  | MT1067    | 140.00            | LG Pavilion cleaning       |
| 04-July   | LG Charitable Trust           | MT1068    | 56.00             | Meeting room hire          |
| 04-July   | Direct Waste Services         | MT1069    | 250.00            | Waste removal The Boundary |
| 04-July   | C May                         | MT1073    | 20.00             | Office cleaner             |
| 04-July   | Kate Harman                   | MT1074    | 26.55             | Expenses                   |
| 04-July   | Mr L Cooper                   | MT1075    | 42.88             | Expenses                   |
| 04-July   | KCC Highways                  | MT1076    | 2,605.69          | Part payment Gateways      |
| 04-July   | Langton Life                  | MT1079    | 250.00            | Advert in Langton Life     |
| 04-July   | RIP Cleaning Services         | MT1080    | 216.00            | Canine refuse              |
| 13-July   | EDF Energy                    | DD        | 656.90            | Pavilion electricity bill  |
| 20-July   | C May                         | MT1070    | 1,807.27          | Salary                     |
| 20-July   | Kate Harman                   | MT1071    | 658.49            | Salary                     |
| 20-July   | Mr L Cooper                   | MT1072    | 640.70            | Salary                     |
| 20-July   | N.E.S.T.                      | MT1077    | 26.93             | Pensions                   |
| 31-July   | Came & Co                     | MT1078    | 3,065.34          | Council Insurance          |
|           | <b>Total:</b>                 |           | <b>£12,544.05</b> |                            |

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices listed above, authorise the electronic payments and sign the cheques drawn on Unity Trust Bank.

**17/143 HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE:** There had not been a Highways meeting since the last Full Council meeting. The next meeting is on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Cllr Milner reported the following:-

- Speedwatch- a date needs to be organised for the sessions to start – Cllr Milner and the Clerk to organise.
- SID – the new SID has been ordered and a suitable replacement site for outside Ashurst Village Hall will be considered once it is delivered.
- Gateways – the first four gateways are now in place however the gateway at Groombridge is still not as ordered and the Clerk is chasing its replacement. The Clerk has also asked Highways to cut back all obscuring vegetation surrounding the gateways. Cllr Mercieca enquired about what the gateways are made of with regard to maintenance costs. Cllr Milner reported a damaged speed sign on the back of the Langton Green gateway however it was hoped this would be updated when the new speed restrictions are in place.
- 20mph – a consultation for the 20mph zone for Speldhurst was advertised by a letter-drop to 300 residents. The consultation ends on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The 20mph restrictions in Langton Green will be advisory during school opening and closing times and will work on a flashing light system. KCC have asked SPC to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance for the Simmons signs, GPRS Pulsa Software and monitor timer at both locations. The Clerk said that he has been advised that LED lights are used which rarely go wrong – if however they do need replacing the approximate cost would be £600. It was **RESOLVED** that SPC would accept responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the signage in Langton Green.

**17/144 LANGTON GREEN RECREATION GROUND (LGRG):** Cllr Mrs Lyle reported the following:

- a) Pavilion income for the financial year to date is £5,916.00 against expenditure of £3,667.02
- b) The electricity bill had reduced by nearly a half following the change of programme and she will continue to monitor it.
- c) The pavilion café is thriving and Emma is planning an end of term jamboree.
- d) The management Committee is awaiting information regarding the rating of the pavilion which will have an impact on the rental rates which are due for reconsideration/renewal in November.
- e) There are ongoing problems in the carpark at the beginning and end of the school day with not enough spaces for everyone resulting in inconsiderate parking and occasional aggressive behaviour. The school has introduced schemes such as 'walk on Wednesdays' and a walking bus will start in September however despite the efforts of the school repeatedly asking parents to park and behave sensibly there still seems to be a problem. Cllr Mrs Lyle asked Councillors for advice on what could be done to alleviate the problem. Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys, Milner and the Clerk all said that the carpark was built to help with parking; not to solve the problem and was only going to get worse as the school increases its intake. Councillors felt that whilst they are very sympathetic to the problems being experienced by the school parents, it is not the responsibility of SPC to police the carpark or provide solutions and that it is a common problem experienced outside most primary schools in the area. The Clerk suggested a very staggered start and finish time to the school day as a way to reduce the problem. The Clerk also said that when the carpark is repainted in the summer holidays, he was considering hatching some areas that are currently not marked out as bays to prevent people parking there and to encourage safer parking. This was supported by Cllr Mrs Lyle.

**17/145 PARISH PLAN:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he had nothing specific to report. He has chased up Arriva regarding the study they promised earlier in the year about additional bus services in the parish and he was disappointed to learn that the contact he had been given had moved onto another department and was unable to help. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that he would speak to the replacement member of staff and remind them of the obligation of their predecessor and ask for the study to be carried out.

**17/146 TWBC "LOVE WHERE WE LIVE AWARDS 2017"** – Councillor Parker suggested a resident of the parish for the award of 'Individual Hero' and Councillors were in agreement. It was **RESOLVED** to submit an application and Cllr Barrington-Johnson said he would find out the necessary information.

**17/147 NEWSLETTER** – The Clerk distributed a draft copy of the suggested newsletter for Councillors’ approval and it was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the publication with a few minor amendments.

**17/148 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Cllr Barrington-Johnson referred to his report.

**17/149 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Governance** – Cllr Milner said that there had not been a meeting of the Governance Committee since the last Full Council meeting and that there was nothing to report.
- b) **Planning** – In the absence of Cllr Mrs Price, the Clerk said that there had been a meeting of the Planning Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the draft minutes of which having been distributed and that there was nothing further to report. The next meeting would be on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- c) **Amenities** – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there had not been a meeting of the Amenities Committee since the last Full Council meeting and that the next one will be on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- d) **Air Traffic** – Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that there had not been a meeting of the Air Traffic Committee since the last Full Council meeting. He said that the aircraft retro-fit had largely been completed which had resulted in a reduction in the noise from Airbus A320 aircraft.
- e) **Footpaths** – Cllr Milner asked for clarification on the amount of work SPC’s groundsman should undertake in clearing footpaths etc and how much should be forwarded to Highways. The Clerk confirmed that the groundsman can be used for clearing some of the footpaths. He said that Hawkhurst Parish Council writes to residents giving them 28 days to cut back overgrown vegetation. Cllr Milner said that he had obtained the contact details for the owner of Shadwell Wood and would contact him. The Clerk advised that the field on the Langton Road next to Ferbies had been sold.
- f) **KALC** – there was nothing to report.
- g) **Environment Workshop** – The Clerk said that there is a provisional date of 13<sup>th</sup> July for the next meeting.

**17/150 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017** – there were none.

**17/151 – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED** – It was **RESOLVED** that this item would be removed from future agendas as all urgent or important correspondence is circulated and dealt with upon receipt and the list is usually mainly made up of advertising literature.

**17/152 – DIARY DATES:**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July** – Langton Green Village Fete

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Full Council, Palmer Room, Langton Green Village Hall

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>** – LGPS Sports Day  
Planning Meeting

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Clerk to clerk Rusthall PC meeting

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Environment Working Group meeting

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Amenities Meeting

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Highways Meeting

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** – LGRG Car Park to be re-lined (weather dependent)

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup>** – Finance Meeting

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August** – Full Council, Committee Room, Speldhurst VH

The Clerk asked Councillors to let him know of any planned holiday dates.

**17/153 – ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

- Cllr Milner enquired about the Five Year Plan from TWBC. The Clerk asked Councillors to read the plan that was in their meeting pack and report back any comments at the Full Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

- The Clerk said that he had received two consultations from TWBC – one a sports and recreation study and one about the precept. Cllr Barrington-Johnson will assist the Clerk in completing the consultations.
- Cllr Mrs Podbury said that there is a consultation regarding homelessness on the TWBC website.
- Cllr Kerby advised that Groombridge Place has applied for an extension to its licence to sell alcohol and play live and recorded music up to 1 am on weekdays and 3 am at weekends. Many residents of Old Groombridge were strongly opposed to this blanket extension of the licence for future events. Cllr Kerby said that there was widespread opposition to this proposal in the East Sussex part of Groombridge; Withyham Parish Council had previously had a meeting with the event organisers at Groombridge Place, and would be vigorously opposing the present proposal. Cllr Barrington-Johnson said that SPC need to put in a strong objection to the Joint Licencing Authority asking for the licence to remain unchanged and for Groombridge Place to apply for individual events on an ad-hoc basis which was endorsed by Full Council. Councillors also objected that the Parish Councils were not consulted and it was agreed the letter should advise that this is unacceptable and be copied into Borough and County Councillors and include our MP.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman