



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 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs Podbury (Chair), Mrs Jeffreys, Parker, Mrs Woodliffe and Mrs Soyke (7.52pm)

**OFFICER 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:** apologies received from Cllr Allen (work commitments).
3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests:** There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying:** There were none.
5. **Minutes: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018** 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 Correspondence:**
  - Cllr Parker voiced concern again about the gap between the road and the green at Langton Green, adjacent to the picket fence. Councillors considered this to be the responsibility of Highways.
  - The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she had received a satisfactory copy of the insurance documents from the resident who wishes to use Langton Green Recreation Ground to paraglide. The decision will be reviewed in six months' time.
8. **Terms of Reference:** Councillors reviewed the Terms of Reference document and in light of the fact that it is hoped newsletters will in future be electronic, it was **RESOLVED** that item 9 will be amended to read: 'The Committee will communicate with parishioners by submitting news and information for inclusion in the village publications, and on the website'.
9. **Financial Review** – The finance sheets were circulated and Councillors noted they were satisfactory.

- 10. Parish Plan** – Councillors confirmed that all issues have been reviewed and actioned as far as they can be. This item is to remain on the agenda as agreed at Full Council.

**11. Parish Council Land**

**a. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)**

- i. Langton Green Village Hall – there were no issues to discuss other than to note the Pavilion had been booked recently when the Village Hall was unable to take a booking from the Clerk.
- ii. Pavilion – The Assistant Clerk said it had been agreed by the Finance Committee that further capital investment would need to be made, in particular to the facilities in the cafe and the electrics. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys said that contracts have been agreed for the maintenance of the electrics and security.
- iii. Sports Clubs – Cllr Mrs Podbury voiced concern over the importance of protecting the cricket square during the planned drainage works to the football pitch. It was **RESOLVED** to inform Chris Allen that the square would need to be protected at all times of the year.
- iv. Play Area – **RESOLVED** to ask Full Council for approval of a ‘grano path’ to be installed from the rear gate of the play area to the end of the cricket fence at a cost of £1,198. Councillors agreed to leave the patches on the newly mulched area underneath the tables in the hope that it would fade in time.
- v. Use of Recreation Ground – there was nothing to report.
- vi. Car Park – **RESOLVED** for the Assistant Clerk to ask Alan Ashby for a quote to repair the sandstone pillar, as he has carried out repairs previously.
- vii. Groundsman – the Assistant Clerk said that a feasibility study was being carried out by the Clerk, as agreed by the Governance Committee, regarding the Groundsman’s hours and duties. She also said that the Groundsman had started the clear up of the two smaller pockets of SPC land in Roopers and that she would arrange for the debris to be collected once the job was complete.

b. **The Green at Langton Green** – there was nothing to report.

c. **The Green at Groombridge** – there was nothing to report.

d. **Pocket Park at Speldhurst** – there was nothing to report.

e. **Signs on Council Land** – the Assistant Clerk noted that Groombridge School PTA had written to the Clerk requesting permission to put up a sign advertising their May Fayre. The Clerk had written back confirming that it would be acceptable providing it is removed shortly after the event and is up for no more than two weeks.

f. **The Boundary** - Cllr Mrs Jeffreys noted that following on from the work the Groundsman did last year, the area is looking much better and so far there appears to be no sign of the duckweed in the pond.

g. **Langton Green Allotments** – It was noted that no communications had been received from Mr Bodle and that Cllr Barrington-Johnson intended to write to him again.

h. **Trees** – The Assistant Clerk said that she had received an email from the residents of Roopers who live nearest to the small pockets of SPC land confirming that the majority of them would prefer the overgrown firs to be felled and replaced with something more suitable. **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk speak to the Tree Officer to get advice regarding the best trees to use and obtain a quotation from Treework to carry out the work.

**Ash Die Back** – Councillors considered whether a more thorough survey of the trees in the Parish should be undertaken in light of the threat of Ash die back. **RESOLVED** that the Assistant Clerk should speak to the Tree Officer for advice.

i. **Hedges** – The Assistant Clerk said that she would speak to the garden maintenance company about the work required in Roopers when they contact SPC prior to the first cut of the year.

- 12. Public Rights of Way** – An email had been received by a resident of Adamswell regarding the Scout Association’s plans to race quadbikes in the area which, it was believed, crossed a PROW. It was agreed that the Planning Committee would be better placed to deal with this enquiry.

- 13. Severe Weather Policy** – The Assistant Clerk said that general advice had been issued by SPC’s insurance company regarding the clearing of snow and ice from public areas. Councillors agreed that the existing ‘Policy in the Event of Snow and Ice’ may need amending and that she should first obtain further and more

specific advice from Came and Company regarding how best to proceed.

- 14. Defibrillator** – Councillors considered an additional defibrillator to be located in Groombridge. It was **RESOLVED** not to purchase one on this occasion as it was felt that the existing equipment in the parish is sufficient.
- 15. BT Phone Box** – An email had been received from a resident regarding sponsoring a phone box on Langton Road. Unfortunately, BT would not sponsor it because it is not one of the iconic red boxes and Councillors therefore felt it was not something SPC wished to get involved with however if the resident wanted to proceed in liaison with BT they would not object to her doing so.
- 16. Items for Information** –
- Cllr Mrs Soyke said that she had recently attended a football event at St Gregory’s RC School and had received advice regarding football pitches that she felt should be fed back to LGCSA.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman