

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SPELDHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008 at 7.45pm**

**IN ASHURST VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Mrs Podbury, Mrs Soyke, Mrs Waters, Ellis, Stevens and Wheeler

Richard Williams (Courier Reporter)

### **2033 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Mrs Paulson-Ellis (holiday)

Cllr. Parker (holiday)

### **2034 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Mrs Podbury proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that Cllr. Mrs Lynn Jeffreys be appointed Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **2035 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys accepted this position and duly signed the Declaration of Office.

### **2036 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr. Wheeler proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that Cllr. Mrs Julia Soyke be appointed Vice Chairman of the Parish Council which was duly accepted by Cllr. Mrs Soyke.

### **2037 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys – Personal and Prejudicial - Item 22 Middlefield – Planning Application

Cllr. Mrs Soyke – Personal – Item 15 – Ashurst Village Play Area / Registering of Common Ground

Cllr. Ellis – Personal and Prejudicial – Item 11 – Trustees of Langton Green Charitable Trust

**2038 MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008, having previously been distributed to members, were approved and signed.

### **2039 AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **2040 Appointment of Committees including KALC Representatives**

The Committees for the coming year were discussed in detail, in particular whether ex-councillors should be invited to join committees as co-opted members. Following a lengthy debate it was agreed by 4 votes to 2 that committee vacancies should be offered to newly co-opted councillors and not outside members.

Cllrs. Mrs Soyke and Mrs Podbury agreed to remain as the KALC representatives.

A Committee list will be produced following the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### **2004 Parish Councillor Vacancies**

Due to the exceptional interest in the vacancies, it was agreed to hold interviews on the evenings of Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June from 7pm. Councillors should ensure that they are available to attend both evenings.

### **2041 Barclays Bank signatories**

It was unanimously agreed that either Cllrs. Dixon or Crundwell should continue to sign cheques together with Cllr. Mrs Jeffreys until new signatories had been approved by Barclays Bank.

It was unanimously agreed that the new signatories would be Cllrs. Mrs Jeffreys, Mrs Waters and Ellis.

### **2042 Cricket and Stoolball Safety Netting**

The clerk had met with a further installer. A firm quote had been received in the sum of £6,500 and the increase in spend was unanimously agreed. The clerk would continue to obtain information and quotations and report back to the Parish Council.

### **2043 Trustees of Langton Green Charitable Trust – letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008** which had previously been circulated to all Councillors.

#### **i) Public Liability Insurance**

It was unanimously agreed that the Trustees should be asked to increase their insurance from £1M to £5M.

#### **ii) Transfer to the Parish Council of the strip of land to the side of former Watson Hall**

It was unanimously agreed that it would be in the best interests of the community for the Parish Council to control this piece of land. The clerk was asked to instruct Donaldson West, solicitors to act on behalf of the Parish Council and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would pay the reasonable legal fees of the Trustees in connection with this Transfer.

#### **iii) Future expansion of the Langton Green Village Hall**

This was agreed in principal. The Parish Council would expect to be fully involved with any expansion plans.

### **2044 Letter of Petition for Skate Park – Langton Green Recreation Ground**

The Parish Council had received a letter from local youths requesting that consideration be given to installing a skate park at the Langton Green Recreation Ground. It was agreed that this could not be discussed until the current play and teen project was complete.

### **2045 Duration of Meetings**

It was unanimously agreed that all meetings would be a maximum of 2 hours. Should meetings exceed this, councillors would be asked whether they wished to continue or defer items to the next meeting.

## **2015 P.A.C.T. (Partners and Communities Together)**

Nothing to report.

### **1825-3 Ashurst Village Play Area / Registering of Common Ground**

Cllr. Mrs Soyke reported on the current situation. It appears that the land was part of a larger plot which was divided into smaller plots many years ago. Nothing has been recorded since 1810 and it would appear that these smaller plots have been forgotten. It was agreed to consult with Donaldson West, Solicitors and obtain further information on a legal indemnity insurance policy.

### **1887-4 Highways Projects**

The clerk reported on an email from David Hall, Kent Highways updating on specific work following the Annual Parish Meeting.

- Liaison Officer will be appointed to work with the clerk.
- Chased yellow lines in Barden Road and should, hopefully, be completed by now.
- A264 drainage issue with the re-surfacing has been checked and is in order.
- Broken signage on the A264 at the Groombridge turn is being replaced.
- Etherington Hill repeater signs have been checked and are in order.
- Crossing outside of the primary school will be looked at in the next few weeks.
- Revisited the speed limit on the A264 but found it to be correct at 40mph in line with the review of A and B class road.

Councillors reported that the flooding at Heathgate Corner is worse since the re-surfacing. Since addressing the camber the flooding now runs to the pavement side.

Councillors also reported water collection near Dornden Drive.

Councillors also asked that the clerk chase :

Speldhurst Hill pathway  
Barden Road footpaths  
White lines at The Hare

### **1939-7 Langton Green School – Safer Crossing Area – Grant**

A grant of £5,100 had been received via the good offices of County Councillor John Davies and the clerk would chase the Solicitors.

### **1960 Parish Council Surgeries**

No surgery since the last meeting.

Next Surgery on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2pm – 3.30pm in Speldhurst Village Hall.

### **1965 Conservation Area**

The clerk confirmed that TWBC would pay for the new posts around The Green, Groombridge as part of the Conservation Area project. Cllr. Mrs Waters asked the current position of the proposed conservation work in Speldhurst and the clerk would make enquiries.

## **1975 – Parking Concerns – Parish Council signs**

Cllr. Trevor Stevens had contacted the owner of the Violin shop in Speldhurst and he did not want a sign outside his premises. It was agreed to purchase four signs (two for Langton and two for Speldhurst).

## **1887-7 Play and Teen Areas**

Work started 12<sup>th</sup> May.

## **1988 Middlefield – Planning Application**

Nothing to report.

## **2005 Annual Parish Council Meeting**

A very successful evening and it was agreed to provide wine and soft drinks in future years.

## **2007-2 Ashurst Traffic Lights**

The traffic lights were now working by the station. It was agreed to take the request further for an interactive speed sign.

## **2011-3 Land Adjacent to Rusthall House**

The clerk was asked to chase Paul Cole regarding the gate.

## **2022-1 Parish Council's Representatives on the Village Hall Trusts**

Terms of Reference would be drawn up and discussed at the June meeting.

## **2046 MATTERS FOR UPDATING from the Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**1896-12 Local Crime Community Sentence** - Nothing to report.

**1935 Heathgate Corner** – see 1887-4 above

**2001 Speldhurst Hill Footpath** - Nothing to report.

**2011-1** Cllr. Crundwell and the clerk had met with Cliff Worcester regarding the hanging of the gates to the entrance of LGRG. Cllr. Crundwell would obtain a quotation for the welding.

**2018-3** – Speed hump inside the gates to the LGRG – the clerk was asked to obtain a quotation.

**2028-3 TWBC – Affordable Housing Needs Survey** – the clerk would arrange a meeting once new councillors on board.

**2032-3 Posts in Southfields** – need replacing and the clerk would chase Highways.

## 2047 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. South East England Regional Assembly – Regional Housing Board – Strategy document. Given to Cllr. Mrs Podbury
2. Langton Green residents – concerns expressed at the barbed wire fencing at the top of Groombridge Hill. Clerk was asked to investigate
3. Judith Lees – Headteacher Langton Green Primary School – expressing concerns to the crossing from LGRG to The Twitten
4. Certificate of Attendance – Planning Information Day 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 – Cllrs. Mrs Podbury, Stevens and Wheeler
5. Thank you letter from David Crundwell

## 2048 DIARY DATES

13<sup>th</sup> May – Parish Council Surgery – Speldhurst Village Hall – 2 – 3.30pm

11<sup>th</sup> July – Official Opening of the Play and Teen Areas – 5.30pm  
Guest Greg Clark MP

## 2049 COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Planning.** Cllr. Mrs Podbury reported on the meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008, the Minutes having previously been distributed to Councillors.

**Finance.** Nothing to report.

**Footpaths.** Nothing to report. Jonathan Bibby will be invited to the Footpaths Annual Meeting.

**Recreation.** Due to a substantial increase in the Langton Sports Club`s use of the Recreation Ground a higher than normal increase had been requested.

**K.A.L.C.** Nothing to report.

## 2050 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID – April 2008

1.	KALC	£1,157.38	Annual Subscription
2.	Allianz	£2,003.94	Annual Insurance
3.	TWBC	£ 135.00	Planning Application fee – safety netting
4.	Donaldson West	£ 881.25	Legal fees - Easement
5.	SE Water	£ 8.06	Water Supply - Pavilion
6.	David Peacock	£ 172.02	6 x Annual Posters
7.	Langton Green Charitable Trust	£ 26.13	Hire of Hall
8.	Pauline Lambell	£1,235.34	Salary
9.	Inland Revenue	£ 453.60	Tax / NI
10.	KALC	£ 28.00	Area Committee Secretary
11.	EDF Energy	£ 35.57	Street Lighting
12.	EDF Energy Contracting	£ 30.66	Street Lighting Maintenance

13.	RIP	£ 123.38	Canine Refuse
14.	BT	£ 202.13	Telephone / Fax
15.	M.R. Lawrence	£ 180.00	Grass Cutting – Roopers
16.	CPRE	£ 27.00	Annual Subscription
17.	EDF Electric	£ 187.21	Electricity – Pavilion
18.	Treework	£ 399.50	Trees – LGRG
19.	Cllr. Mrs Soyke	£ 82.65	2 x trees

TOTAL £7,368.82

#### **2051 ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID – May 2008**

1.	RIP	£ 98.70	Canine Refuse
2.	Langton Green CT	£ 26.13	Hire of Hall
3.	Cllr. R. Ellis	£ 43.77	Wine and soft drinks – Annual Meeting
4.	Heritage Landscapes	£ 44.00	Planting 2 x trees
5.	Pauline Lambell	£1,235.93	Salary
6.	Inland Revenue	£ 454.71	Tax / NI

TOTAL £1,980.93

Total Expenditure for 2007 / 08 £59,765.27

#### **2051 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. New councillors should have an induction / welcome pack.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

**CHAIRMAN**