



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 Thursday 3rd May 2012 at 11.30am

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

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May – Clerk

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

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Woodward (prior appointment); Cllr Owen (work)

2. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests: There were none

3. Declarations of Lobbying: There were none.

4. The Minutes of 12th March 2012 were signed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising and Correspondence

There were two items of correspondence.

An email received from Ms Dallaway of Stone Cottage who is concerned about cars driving over her front lawn. **Clerk and Chairman will make a site visit.**

An email from Mrs Hall requesting dog litter bins along the twitten between Rusthall and the Langton Green Recreation Ground. The issue of dog mess is being considered in the meeting under item 13.

6. 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.

7. Financial Review

The figures were reviewed and it was agreed that the Broadband allocation should be transferred to a separate section.

It was noted that the work needed to the trees in LGRG following the tree survey would not be covered by the annual maintenance budget and would have to come from either the trees (maintenance & planting) budget or the contingency account.

The committee was waiting for a reply from The Big Tree Plant before making any decisions about possible costs.

There was a cost of about £500 for redrafting the car park lease and the preparation of a draft lease for the pavilion.

8. Posts/bollards at The Green

The Clerk had investigated ways to enhance the conservation area opposite The Green that was inherited by the Council when the Village Hall was moved. The posts that border the road to stop cars parking on the grass were old and decaying and a price to remove the old ones and install new ones to match the new islands was explored. He approached TWBC heritage partnership who offered to pay 50% of the costs of £3,791.76. The committee **AGREED** to recommend to the Finance Committee that the costs, which have been included in the budget, be approved to a maximum of £1,900.

9. Langton Green Recreation Ground (LGRG)

- i. Langton Green Sports Club (LGSC) has employed an architect and hope to submit plans in three months after consultation. It is unlikely that the Parish Council can claim back the VAT – see full report at Full Council meeting in May.
- ii. Car Park – parking. The Clerk was in the process of producing A5 laminated notices to attach to the posts by the disabled bays. The solicitor is drafting a new lease for the extension car park to be transferred back to Parish Council ownership.
- iii. Maintenance of Grounds –the committee was in favour of employing Mr Cooper for jobs on an ad hoc basis until a more permanent commitment could be made.
- iv. Dog waste bags – the Clerk had been able to purchase bags from the same supplier used by TWBC at 60% reduction in price. He had purchased 4 boxes which should last one year at a cost of £212.
- v. Ownership sign – the Clerk would attend to the matter and circulate proposed wording to the committee
- vi. Sign re icy/snowy weather – this would be included in the policy for these conditions that is being prepared by the Governance committee.
- vii. Re-cycling – there is a minor dispute between the two contracted companies that empty the bottle banks and bins.
- viii. Container – some of the earth has been moved and Cllr Mrs Soyke has offered some laurel bushes for planting.

10. Trees in the Parish

- i. Treework has completed the report on trees in the LGRG and there is substantial work to be done (totalling £6,730) over the next 2-3 years. Urgent work totals £810 and is recommended to be carried out immediately. **The Clerk will contact Dan Docker** (TWBC Tree Officer) to ask his opinion and find out whether there are TPOs on the trees. He will then get **other quotes for the work**. The Clerk advised that this work exceeds the annual maintenance budget and will need to come from contingency and the tree budget.
There is a bough of an oak tree that has fallen into the school grounds and Treework submitted a quote for making safe, further reduction and taking away of £230. In view of the urgency the committee recommended that this be accepted and the Clerk will ask the Finance committee to approve the expenditure.
- ii. Cllr Milner has ordered the tree and the date of 1st June has been set for planting with a provisional time of 6.30pm. The local residents will be advised. **Clerk to order a plaque.**
- iii. The Big Tree Plant – we are awaiting a response from them having submitted the forms with additional public support.

11. Footpath (between Great Footway and Langholm Road)

The Clerk had spoken to a resident who had highlighted the poor condition of the footpath and she was happy with the work and access. Cllr Milner felt that it was a temporary fix and further repairs would be needed in the near future.

12. Playground Inspection Report

The cost of attending a course to train as a qualified playground inspector and sitting an exam was £485. **The Clerk was asked to talk to Maria Cook** to see if she can either train him or recommend another company to compare prices. The possible cost regarding the footpath behind the ball stop netting had not been looked in to but would be progressed. The accident report book has been acquired and is in the office.

13. Letter to residents re the Twittens

A further article would be placed in the monthly magazines highlighting the need for residents to monitor and maintain their "patch". **All Cllrs who help produce articles for the local magazines to action.** Dog signs encouraging owners to take their dog mess home would be produced and placed along the footpaths. **Clerk to action.**

14. Asset Register

Work is in progress.

15. Ashurst Flagpole

TWBC agreed to contribute 50% towards renewing the flagpole. The Finance committee agreed to pay the balance. Instructions have been given to have the old one replaced. The Parish Council will take responsibility for the flagpole in the future. The Clerk will add a photographic record and add it to the fixed asset register when it is installed.

16. Items for Information

The Clerk said that there was money in the budget for a new notice board which is to be installed on the Green which will replace the one on the wall of the old post office. He will notify residents at the same time as advising them when the new gravelling is to be completed.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm

Chairman