



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

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2011 at 7.30pm  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs Jeffreys (Chairman) Mrs Hull, Mrs Podbury, Brown, Hemming, Langridge, Milner, Parker, Owen and Woodward

**OFFICER PRESENT:** Mr C May – Clerk

County Councillor John Davies (left 8.45pm)  
Roger Mallett – Chairman, Langton Green Charitable Trust (LGCT) (left 9pm)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllrs Mrs Soyke, Pendleton, Ringrose and Mrs Flemington, Assistant Clerk (prior engagement)  
Borough Cllrs Jukes and Stanyer sent their apologies

**11/126 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:**

Cllr Parker declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in item 11/132v)

**11/127 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING:**

Cllr Mrs Hull has been approached by residents of Northfields concerning parking problems

**11/128 MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011, having previously been forwarded to Members, were approved and signed.

**11/129 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:**

The meeting was adjourned  
County Cllr John Davies said he was available to answer any questions  
Roger Mallett said that he was here to give further information regarding the grant request by the LGCT  
The meeting was re-opened

**11/130 APPROVAL OF STANDING ORDERS:** The new Standing Orders were **AGREED** and adopted forthwith.

**11/131 APPROVAL OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY:** The Freedom of Information Policy was **AGREED** and adopted forthwith.

**11/132 FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Cllr Parker**

- i) Cllr Parker reported that at the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July a grant to Langton Green Primary School of £500 had been agreed to assist the school outing to Marchiennes.
- ii) Cllr Parker reported that there had been six email decisions by the Finance Committee. It was retrospectively agreed to pay for the meeting room for the local shops forum at the Langton Green Church Hall (£20); for six XL hi viz vests; repairs to a wall in Peshurst Road £80; Clerk's overtime 13.75 hours; the Clerk to attend a SLCC Regional Conference (£65) and to pay £30 to KALC for the TW Branch Clerk's honorarium.

- iii) The over run of costs for the Parish Office for electrical installation, window improvements and telephone cables of £3,557.00 was **AGREED**
- iv) A decision on Draft Grant Guidelines was deferred until the September meeting
- v) Cllr Parker advised Members that the Langton Green Rural Society (LGRS) had also received a grant request from the LGCT for £6,500.00 but no decision would be made until September. He said that the Finance Committee had recommended approval of the grant. He then left the room.
- Mr Mallett assured Cllrs that this was indeed the final phase of the extension to the Langton Green Village Hall and that there would be no more requests for further funds. He explained that phase 3 of the development would cost £28,000 and was for unisex disabled persons WC (DPWC) and a caretaker's office and that they had funding from the National Lottery of £10,000 and were using the last £5,000 of their funds. The balance of £13,000 was being requested from both the SPC and LGRS. He explained that it would be advantageous to be able to finish the build while builders were on site rather than have them return at a later date with the additional associated costs. Cllrs asked a number of questions including if there was any verification that that the money was needed and how the figures were calculated.
- Cllr Brown proposed an amendment that the total amount requested be given in two parts – 50% as a grant and 50% as a loan to be paid back at a date to be agreed and on terms that should not be onerous. This amendment was considered and it was **AGREED** 5-3 in favour with 1 abstention. The amended motion was then put to the vote and was **AGREED** unanimously.
- The Trustees were invited to submit financial information to assist the Parish Council in deciding terms and conditions for the loan. The Trustees are also to provide documentary confirmation of the cost of Phase 3 and the grant from the National Lottery.
- Cllr Parker re-joined the meeting
- vi) Investment of Council Funds – the Clerk advised Members that the loan to LGCT would mature mid-September and that **he would investigate options** at the next meeting when Cllrs should decide the amount to be considered for investment. Cllr Brown asked if the Clerk could present a cash flow for consideration.

#### 11/133 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Invoices verified by Cllr Woodward

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
01/08/2011	Flo Print	147	£402.00	Newsletter Printing
01/08/2011	BT PLC	148	£31.14	Mobile phone bill
01/08/2011	Cleary & Downey Ltd	149	£9,817.20	Enhancement The Green LG
01/08/2011	Premiere Digital	150	£180.00	BB meeting boards
01/08/2011	Open Spaces Society	151	£40.00	Annual Membership
01/08/2011	KALC	152	£144.00	Clerk's conference
01/08/2011	Rymans	153	£19.68	Stationery
01/08/2011	RIP Cleaning Services	154	£129.60	Canine refuse
01/08/2011	Langton Green Charitable Trust	155	£18.00	Meeting rooms June
01/08/2011	The PCC of All Saints LG	156	£20.00	Shops Forum
01/08/2011	Mr E Langridge	157	£5.98	Wire re Posters
01/08/2011	KALC	158	£30.00	Honorarium
01/08/2011	M R Lawrence	159	£320.00	Mowing July
01/08/2011	KCC (KCS)	160	£1,302.47	Mowing LGRG (6 mths)
01/08/2011	KCC (KCS)	161	£614.92	Mowing Groombridge (6 mths)
01/08/2011	Mr L Cooper	162	£100.00	Groundsman duties July
01/08/2011	Viking Direct	163	£280.83	Ink & Paper
01/08/2011	Tate Fencing Ltd	164	£311.42	Collapsible posts
01/08/2011	Speldhurst School PTA	165	£3,500.00	Grant re outdoor playground
01/08/2011	HMRC	166	£632.73	August NI & Tax
01/08/2011	C May	167	£1,239.39	Salary
01/08/2011	C May	168	£207.95	Expenses

01/08/2011	M Flemington	169	£400.95	Salary
01/08/2011	M Flemington	170	£64.60	Expenses
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£19,812.86</b>	

**11/134 HIGHWAYS REPORT:**

Cllr Mrs Podbury said that she and the Clerk will be meeting the new Highway's Steward on Thursday (4<sup>th</sup> August) to take him on a tour of the Parish and highlight problems. Speedwatch sessions had halted as there had been no Police training because of illness – Cllr Mrs Podbury said that this was becoming very frustrating considering it was a Parish Vision priority.

Cllr Mrs Hull said she was meeting Darren Hood regarding tree planting in Southfields and Furzefield Avenue.

The Clerk had written to KHS regarding the junction A264 and B2110 and had received a reply stating that originally (until about 1970) the A264 had been the Groombridge Road and this had been changed but the accident record did not justify a change in priority.

**11/135 ENHANCEMENT OF THE LAND OUTSIDE THE OLD WATSON HALL:**

The work had been completed and appears to have been well received by the majority of users. The problem still exists that motorists are driving on the island to avoid oncoming traffic. There was much discussion on the need for double yellow lines and where the fault lies for the traffic problems. It was proposed to install wooden posts, the cost having previously agreed by the Finance Committee, and it was **AGREED** by 8-0 (2 abstentions) that these should be installed subject to KHS input. Reflectors would also be considered.

**2249 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE:**

Building work is on schedule with completion due in October. It was suggested that an official opening ceremony should be considered.

**11/136 LOCAL SCHOOLS**

The barrier would be discussed with KHS at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

It was noted that the two families failed in their appeal to have their children admitted to the local school in Speldhurst. The Speldhurst School PTA had requested the grant, previously agreed, be paid towards the outdoor classroom.

**11/137 BROADBAND:**

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys thanked County Cllr John Davies and Cllr Woodward for their contribution to making the evening such a success. Cllr Woodward said that the next stage would be to set up a working party and then to possibly conduct a survey. He had prepared a survey to be discussed once the working party was up and running. He said that he hoped that another Cllr would join him on the team and it was suggested that Cllr Mrs Soyke might like to assist as she was a participant at the original conference. Cllr Mrs Jeffreys also offered her support.

**11/138 SHOPS IN THE PARISH:**

Cllr Langridge said that he had prepared a drawing of a possible solution to parking at the lay by next to the shops in Langton Green and this would be discussed on 4<sup>th</sup> August with the KHS Steward. Cllr Brown said he was not in favour of the proposal but if it were to go ahead could parking be restricted to one hour.

Cllr Mrs Hull said that a register had been prepared and that another meeting would be held in two months.

**11/139 PUBLIC NOTICES ON COUNCIL LAND:**

A draft proposal had been forwarded to members and, subject to an amendment stating that permission should be sought on each occasion, it was **AGREED** that the Guidance Policy should be adopted.

**11/140 VISION FOR KENT 2011-2012 CONSULTATION:**

Cllr Woodward said that he completed the form as an individual and would forward his ideas to Cllr Mrs Jeffreys who would complete the form online on behalf of the Council. Cllrs were invited to send her their ideas.

**11/141 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE;**

**The Clerk was requested to write to TWBC** to ask how the money will be allocated and what terms and conditions there were. It was proposed that an article would be placed in either the October or December editions of the local Parish magazines (or winter newsletter) with suggestions. Cllr Mrs Podbury suggested that the money be used for a fund raising event and there was general support for this motion.

**11/142 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

There was nothing to report

### 11/143 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i) Governance Committee – No report but a meeting is to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> August
- ii) Planning – There was nothing to report.
- iii) Amenities – A Committee meeting had been organised for 10<sup>th</sup> August to discuss applying for a grant from Sport England and would include the LGSC and the LGCC.
- iv) Footpaths – Cllr Milner referred to his written report.
- v) KALC – There was no report
- vi) Local Needs Housing – Cllr Woodward said that the committee was waiting for the completion of the surveys by ERHA and then a meeting would be held to consider the results and the next steps. Cllr Brown said that he did not consider the email reply to questions about documentation satisfactory.
- vii) Environment – No report. The next Committee meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

### 11/144 OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011:

It was noted that there had not been a progress report on the street lighting (11/125). **The Assistant Clerk to follow up**

### 11/145 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- i) Email from ACRK – Kent Village of the year competition (previously circulated)
- ii) Letter from TWBC re review of polling arrangements (previously circulated)
- iii) Letter from KCC re Footpath WT82 has been incorrectly recorded (previously circulated to Planning and Footpath committee)
- iv) Letter from Carol Braidwood thanking SPC for supporting the Fiesta by giving out prizes
- v) Letter from Southern Water advising of change of ownership of private sewers to the Recreation Ground Pavilion.
- vi) CPRE “Kent Voice” Magazine Summer 2011 (to Cllr Mrs Hull)
- vii) SLCC letter including “Clerk” Magazine and advising of two conferences.
- viii) Letter from Land Registry re our office and the updating of their records. It has been registered by Donaldson West.
- ix) Letter from DW confirming the above
- x) Letter from Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd require sites to install their new range of equipment for 0-teens.
- xi) Letter from Glasdon re products available
- xii) Oast to Coast Summer magazine from ACRK (to Cllr Mrs Podbury)
- xiii) Invitation to ACRK’s Annual Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October
- xiv) Application for ACRK’s Kent Village of the year 2011 competition
- xv) Invitation to The Mayor’s Civic Dinner and Dance on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011
- xvi) Letter from Mr R Johnson regarding speeds through the village of Speldhurst (to Highways Committee – **Clerk to write**)
- xvii) Email from Mr S Whitaker regarding the overgrowth on the pavements and the sidings. He thinks that residents would not mind funding these improvements through the Parish Council.
- xviii) Email from Lucy McDougall of Churchyard Cottages regarding cars mounting the pavement on Barden Road (to Highways Committee)
- xix) Invitation from The Mayor to attend the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on 13 November
- xx) Email from KALC regarding Open Public Services White Paper Consultation – previously circulated by email to members
- xxi) Email from David Turner, a resident of Speldhurst, asking what the Parish Council is doing to pressure KHS to restore granite kerbstones (in Penshurst Road) – refer July’s correspondence (to Highways Committee)
- xxii) Hospice in the Weald Summer magazine
- xxiii) Brochure from Kent Housing Group: Rural Homes: supporting Kent’s rural communities (to LNH Committee)

### 11/146 DIARY DATES:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August – Highways meeting with new Steward – 9.30am  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Amenities Committee - LGVH  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August – Governance meeting – Ashurst  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Planning Meeting - SPVH  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – **Full Council Meeting** – LGVH Committee Room

### 11/147 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

Wreaths to be ordered next month

Cllr Mrs Hull suggested that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of Guy Hitchings. **She would prepare a draft.**

Cllr Mrs Podbury is preparing an update to the Parish Vision report and would like contributions from **Cllrs from their respective committees.**

Cllr Brown advised that he had attended the Rusthall Village Society meeting (in a Neighbourhood Watch capacity) and advised that the newly formed Rusthall PC had been given a grant of £10,000 by TWBC.

Cllr Mrs Jeffreys advised that she had had a call concerning grass cutting in Roopers and it appears that KHS have now decided to stop cutting certain areas. (To be discussed 4<sup>th</sup> August)

The Clerk said that KHS had taken down a convex mirror in Farnham Lane and he was investigating.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.40pm

CHAIRMAN